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IRISH 1798 COLLECTION

SKETCHES

~~Notes on the~~
IRISH

POLITICAL CHARACTERS,

OF THE PRESENT DAY,

SHEWING

THE PARTS THEY RESPECTIVELY TAKE ON THE
QUESTION OF

THE UNION;

WHAT PLACES THEY HOLD,

THEIR CHARACTERS AS SPEAKERS, &c. &c.

Quid melius aut majus Reipublicæ facere possumus quam si
populos erudimus atque docemus ? CICERO.

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PREFACE.

WHENEVER it has happened that a nation has emerged from slavery to liberty, or funk from freedom into despotism, every stage of advancement or decline has been marked by a conflict that has formed *an æra in it's history*; and the rights and privileges gained or lost, in these struggles, become the future landmarks of the Constitution and Government.

This will be the case, with respect to the great question now agitating in both kingdoms, upon the subject of the UNION ;—the names of those who spoke and voted upon this occasion,

will be sedulously enquired after by posterity.

The inhabitants of every country have a natural interest in the characters of their CHIEFS, and the following sheets are written with a view of exposing and explaining them to the people, and thereby giving a proper direction to their attachment and regard.

The Work has been divided into three parts :

1st. The distinguished Members of the HOUSE of LORDS.

2d. The distinguished Members of the HOUSE of COMMONS.

3d. Lawyers, and other distinguished Characters OUT of Parliament.

Some

Some *few* of these characters appeared in the public papers, about the time of the REGENCY, which have been altered, by adaptation to present times and circumstances; and if *others* here given, appear too concise and scanty of information, let it be remembered, that there is no subject more difficult to attain the knowledge of, with any degree of certainty, than that of elevated and distinguished characters; in general, their virtues are either blazoned with the fulsome panegyric of dependent sycophants, or misrepresented by the envious, malignant, and disappointed: they move in orbits too distant for *minute* observation; and of the number of supposed facts detailed by public reports, few can be relied upon as authentic, and, therefore, are unfit for publication; to which may be added, that many

many interesting traits of character, in *private* life, are improper to be exposed to *public* observation.

The EDITOR embraces this opportunity of returning thanks to his numerous IRISH friends, for the information they have respectively afforded him, respecting the several public characters *attempted* to be pourtrayed in the following slight *Essay*.

June 1, 1799.

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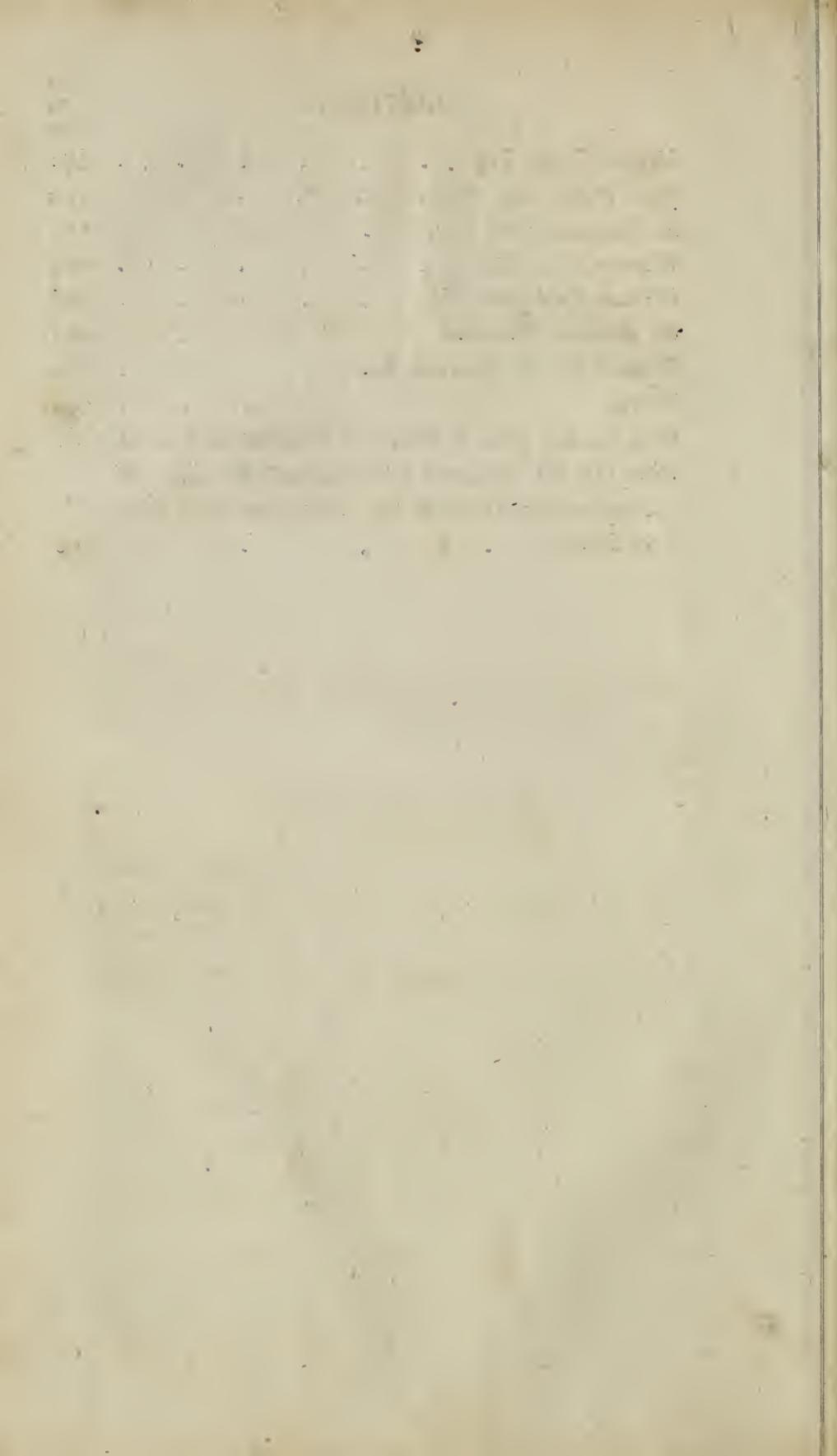
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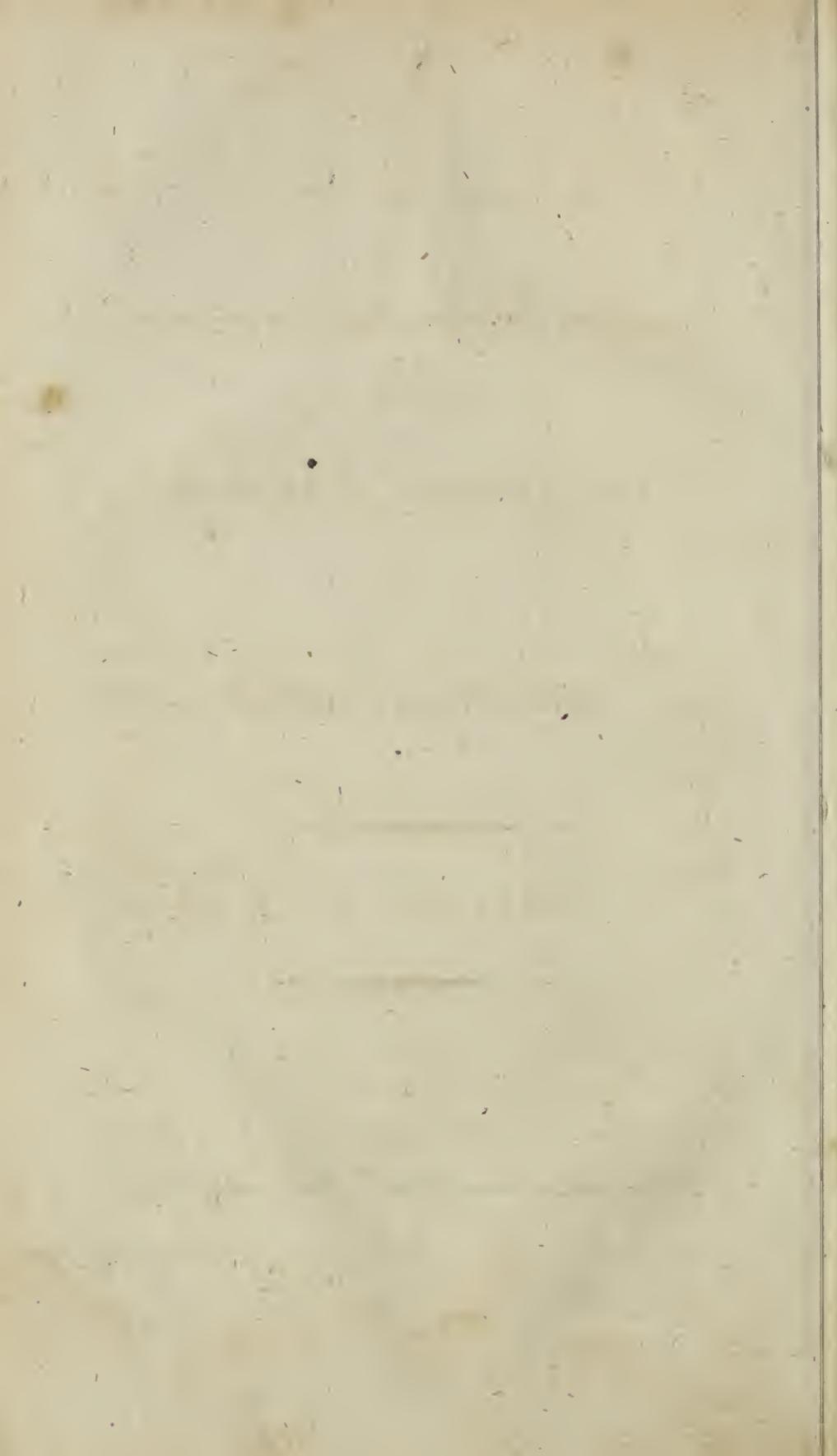


DISTINGUISHED CHARACTERS

IN THE

HOUSE OF LORDS.

PART THE FIRST.



THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

EARL CLARE,

LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR.

LORD CLARE is son of one of the best informed, and most successful, lawyers that ever adorned the Irish bar.

His *grandfather* was, what is called in Ireland, a *sky farmer** ; one who holds a very few acres of land, and works it himself. One of his *uncles* was a priest ; and his *father*, it has been said, was originally destined to officiate at the popish altar, and that he actually received the education necessary to qualify him for that station ; *if so*, however, he soon *recanted his errors*, for he was very early in life called to the Irish bar ; a gentleman who made, too, a very conspicuous figure in the senate. The great object of his life, was to impart to his son

* See a full account of his family, in the history of the city and county of Limerick.

the profound legal knowledge he had himself acquired, and which had raised his own fame and fortune.

As nature had given the present nobleman the requisite talents to constitute an able lawyer, from the addition of his other advantages, he was soon considered not only as a rising character, but one (as it were) *destined* to fill the first post in the profession. He was entered, at an early age, a student of the university of Dublin, where he was contemporary with some of the most celebrated characters of the present day in Ireland,

Having completed his course of collegiate studies, he kept his terms in the Temple, and was, in due course, called to the Irish bar, with the greatest advantages.

Upon a complaint, preferred to the visitors of the university of Dublin, concerning some innovations and abuses, the members of that university, many of whom had been his fellow-students, called upon him to plead their cause. Here he acquitted himself with such merit, eloquence, and knowledge of the laws, that, upon the next vacancy, the electors

electors gave the highest proof of their approbation and gratitude, by returning him their representative to parliament.

His lordship did not, like the generality of young senators, set out in his political career with violent professions of patriotism and loud declamations against government ; independent in fortune, he seemed rather to shun than court popularity.

At the time when a just and liberal policy induced the legislature to unbend the heavy burdens of the Roman Catholics, the House of Commons entered so eagerly into the business, that in unchaining the Catholics, they inadvertently loosened every link that secured the landed property of the kingdom ; this instantly appeared to his lordship, then attorney-general, who pointed out the danger, and stopped them on the very brink : a profound and awful silence took place, the House seemed terrified ; he compared it's situation to that of an army panic struck ; proceedings were instantly stopped, till proper cautionary measures could be taken. He has been the most vehement opposer of the Catholic pretensions to share in the privileges of the constitution.

In the same session, after Ireland had demanded the rights of a free and imperial kingdom, the Duke of Portland having made his bargain for a simple repeal of the statute of the 6th of Geo. 1st,—upon that occasion, when some were supposed to have been bribed, and others terrified into compliance, his lordship stood forth the champion of Irish liberty: a few days afterwards, he proposed to the House, *to demand the restoration of the final judicature*; arguing, that it was idle to suppose any appeal ought to be from the courts in Ireland to those of a nation, whose legislation had no concern in, and whose judges might be very justly supposed little conversant in its laws.

In 1783, a new parliament was called, and he took his seat for the borough of Killmallock. It was in the first session of this parliament, that Mr. FLOOD presented a petition to the volunteer convention for an alteration of the constitution of the realm, a measure on which his lordship exerted himself with the greatest ability.

On the removal of Mr. Yelverton to the exchequer, he was made *attorney-general*, and no man was assuredly ever better qualified to

to fill this important office. His firmness, his confidence in his own powers, and that bold tone with which he hurled defiance at his parliamentary opponents, often appalled the minor members of opposition, and sometimes kept even their chiefs at bay. This did not, however, *always* succeed. The *repulse* he experienced from Mr. now Lord O'Neil, who caught instant fire at the dictatorial language in which the attorney-general had dared to address him, and who reprobated him with the utmost severity, will not be easily forgotten. This overbearing spirit, however, succeeded too often; the following is an instance of it :

When a congress for the avowed purpose of changing the constitution of the realm, was actually assembled in William-street, and the sheriff for the county of Dublin had called a meeting of his bailiwick, and every proceeding to elect representatives to serve in that congress:—The attorney-general, then the most unpopular man in the country, unawed by the mob, and attended only by one or two friends, made his way through the crowd to the hustings, interrupted a popular orator in the midst of his harangue, told

the sheriff that they had acted illegally in calling the meeting, commanded them to leave the chair, and threatened them with an information *ex officio*, if they presumed to continue in it. He then left the astonished assembly amidst the hisses of the mob—but the sheriffs instantly dissolved the meeting.

His voice is neither commanding nor melodious, having an unpleasing shrillness of tone; the graces of action he seems to despise, and in his mode of speaking, he has a great deal of the mannerist, being strongly marked with the leading features of the elocution of the law-courts. His language is plain, correct, and copious, apparently the natural drift of his thoughts, and the effect of habit, rather than the product of premeditation and study; it is generally even and local, but when warm, rather violent than elevated.

He is said to be profound in the knowledge of his profession. On the death of Lord Lifford, he was made lord high chancellor, by the title of **BARON FITZGIBBON.**

He is said to make an excellent chancellor,
and

and that he not only *dispatches* the business of the court, but that his decrees are founded in great wisdom and equity: he has also reformed many abuses of the court.

This nobleman is the first Irishman that ever filled the office of chancellor. He is one of the most vehement advocates FOR the Union.

There is a great resemblance between the character, manners, and conduct of this nobleman and that of Lord THURLOW, and he is said to *affect* that resemblance still more.

Like Thurlow, he was, in early life, a man of dissipation, and drank deep of the cup of pleasure; like Thurlow, he is pompous and dictatorial in his manner, and affects an air of confident superiority; like Thurlow, he professes no great veneration for the people, or their rights; and, like him too, his conduct has been marked by an uniform support of the British cabinet. In the affair of the *regency*, the conduct of the *Irish chancellor* was a direct copy of that of the *chancellor of England*.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD KILWARDEN,

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE KING'S-BENCH.

LORD KILWARDEN has nothing to boast on the score of family:—like many other law lords, he is the founder of his own family and fortune.

He was educated at the college of Dublin, and was there distinguished as a man of the most plodding application.

He was called to the bar in 1766.

From his high character at the bar, a pre-conceived opinion of his abilities, and his uniform unvaried concurrence of opinion with the executive power, he was introduced into the House of Commons, under the auspices of Lord Tyrone, and, without much parliamentary exhibition, raised to the post of solicitor-general, in 1787. On the promotion of Mr. Fitzgibbon to the court of Chancery, he was appointed attorney-general, in 1789.

Here was the place to shew his parliamentary

mentary talents ; but such as he possessed were very slender, insomuch that Mr. Ponsonby observed of him, “ *that he was a very worthy man, but a miserable attorney-general.*”

In cases of *property* he was considered a sound lawyer, but on *constitutional* questions, he was called the *doubting* lawyer, from the circumstance of his having been unable to urge any other answer to charges once brought against the late Lord Clonmell, for holding men to excessive bail under *fiats* for libels, except that of *doubting*, whether or not his lordship’s conduct had been legal.

He ranks very low as a parliamentary speaker :—his voice is strong and deep, but neither mellow nor well toned ; action he has none, save the swing swang of the bar ; and his manner is cold and inanimate, as if addressing a court on a question of property, rather than discussing a political question of magnitude ; yet, with all his apparent phlegm, he is extremely irritable, and easily thrown off his guard.

His language is indifferent, for, though simple,

simple, it is not correct, and it flows more in the even tenor of dull declamation, than the sprightly ebullition of fancy and genius; more a sensible speaker than an orator, more adapted to inform the understanding than influence the passions: from his general character, he is, nevertheless, heard with respect; and, even in the infamous business of *attach-ments**, his law argument, weak as it was, but little diminished his reputation. There is a certain degree of candour and openness of manner about him, that always procured a degree of esteem and praise.

From his connections, as much as situation, he has ever been an invariable partisan of court measures, and a determined, though not a powerful, advocate of administration.

In the last year, he was raised to the seat of chief justice of the King's-bench, on the death of Lord Chief Justice CLONMELL.

In private life, no man is more estimable or amiable.

* See note (a).

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
 LORD VISCOUNT CARLETON,
 LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COMMON PLEAS.

HE was the son of a merchant at Cork, and such was the ascendancy his father had in the corporation, and in the mercantile interest of the town, that he was called the “*king of Cork* ;” such, however, is the uncertainty of all human affairs, that he ultimately failed, and was even reduced to extreme poverty.

His son contracted an intimacy * with Mr. Scott, afterwards Lord Clonmell, at the college of Dublin, and they studied *together*

* Few men ever experienced more the kindness of fortune than this nobleman. From a very obscure rank in life, he, within a very few years, arrived at the summit of professional dignity and power, as well as a fortune of 10,000l. per annum.

Lord Yelverton, the chief baron; Lord Carlton, the chief justice of the common pleas; and Lord Clonmell, the late chief justice of the King’s-bench, were compeers at the Temple; but, with less intrinsic merit than either, it was always predicted, that his consummate assurance would give him the lead in life; a prophecy, which the event verified. He was, at that time, distinguished by the elegant appellation of COPPER-FACED JACK.

at

at the *Temple*, where Mr. Carlton's father, in the days of his prosperity, supported them BOTH. Mr. Scott was, at that time, so poor, that it is supposed his subsequent call to the bar could not have been effected without such assistance, or, at least, not without much difficulty. Mr. Scott never forgot this debt of gratitude and obligation: when Mr. Carlton's difficulties came upon him, he largely contributed to his relief, and proved himself a sincere friend to his son.

Partly through *his* interest, aided by his own merits and industry, he obtained a silk gown, was made solicitor-general, created a peer in 1789, and made chief justice of the court of common pleas.

As a lawyer he holds the middle rank, not having ever been considered as a first-rate man; persevering industry and methodical arrangement being the leading traits of his professional character.

As a professional speaker, he was neat and argumentative, but of no great consideration in parliament. Like his friend and patron, Lord Clonmell, he always supported the measures of administration.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
 BARRY, LORD YELVERTON,
 LORD CHIEF BARON OF THE EXCHEQUER.

MR. YELVERTON is said to have been born of obscure and poor parentage, being the son of a weaver, in Newmarket, in the county of CORK.

He was entered a *sizar* of the university of Dublin, where he obtained a scholarship.

Very soon after the expiration of his scholarship, he married a lady with a small fortune ; which, however, small as it was, enabled him, with the aid of his literary labours, to keep his terms in London.

He was called to the bar in 1764 ; but many years passed away before he was at all distinguished, so as to attract the notice of the public, but he at length found his way into parliament, where he joined the patriots of the day in procuring an enlargement of commercial privileges, and the establishment of legislative independence.

Mr.

Mr. Yelverton soon afterwards embraced the opposite side, and lent his aid to the court, by resisting reform in the representation through the means of the volunteer associations: — *hence* his professional advancement!

He was made attorney-general in 1782, and, in 1784, lord chief baron of the exchequer.

Mr. Yelverton was, at this time, indefatigable in counteracting and dissolving the volunteer associations.

As a public speaker, the leading feature of his eloquence is *energetic force*. His voice is full and deep, his pronunciation flow and solemn; his arrangement masterly; his knowledge great and diversified; his manner animated and impressive.

He is allowed to be a good and a learned judge; but he has one fault, which is certainly a very great one in a judge, who, of all men, should be the most temperate and dispassionate—his lordship is extremely irritable, and too apt to imagine he conceives *at first*

first sight, what is seldom truly understood, without great patience and laborious investigation.

It is remarkable, that although seated upon the bench, he was not till several years afterwards, elevated to the peerage.

In 1789—the memorable period of the regency business—he strongly asserted the right of Ireland to choose her own regent, and accordingly joined in the proffer of that office to the Prince of Wales.

In private life, it is said, no man is more amiable: possessing manners the most simple and unassuming—and the goodness of his heart is evinced by his early patronage of Mr. CURRAN, without which that most distinguished genius would have been too probably lost to the world.

THE DUKE OF LEINSTER

Is descended of the Fitzgerald family, and is the only duke of Ireland. His family has been dignified with the peerage of that country for more than six hundred years. His grace is the 27th Baron of *O'Phaly*, the 21st *Earl of Kildare*, and 2d *Duke of Leinster*, in Ireland ; and the 2d *Viscount Leinster*, of Taplow, in England. His mother is sister to the Duke of Richmond, and he is distantly related to Mr. Fox. His grace is a most amiable private character, and is a good and quiet man. He always opposed government*, except in the single instance of the regency ; soon after which he was appointed master of the rolls in Ireland, a sinecure place of great annual profit, which, however, he very soon resigned, together with his regiment of militia.

* The duke and Lord Henry Fitzgerald vote *against* government ; Lord Charles Fitzgerald, an English admiral, and Lord Robert, the present envoy at Copenhagen, are *with* government.

His

His grace by no means affects the character of an orator ; he is a plain man, and delivers his sentiments in plain language. He opposes the union, and is very justly IDOLIZED in Ireland.

He is possessed of upwards of 70,000 acres of land in Ireland, and his conduct has been a constant reproach to those absentee land-holders, who drain Ireland of her wealth, by spending their rents in foreign countries.

MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE.

THIS nobleman's father was the late earl of Hillsborough*, who was secretary of state in the administration of Lord NORTH.

His political conduct agrees very well with his motto, *Ne tentes aut perfice* : he supports administration with *all his might*.

He is one of the warmest partisans in favour of the union, and, from his property in the county of Down, in Ireland, has much influence ; his interest goes a great way in returning one, if not two, members for that county.

He recently called the Earl of Moira to an account, for his statements of “ Irish oppressions,” which induced his lordship to move for leave to prove his statement at the bar of the *English* House of Lords.

The marquis, in contradiction, stated his own local knowledge of the state of the

* Earl of Hillsborough, in England.

country

country where he had served as a general officer, and said, the minds of the catholics were inflamed, and that the designs of the “United Irishmen” could only be kept under by coercion. He insisted that Lord Moira had been grossly deceived, and, although his lordship offered to prove his statements at the bar of the House, or before the privy-council, by 100 witnesses, he was not allowed to do so. Lord Moira stated, that seventy of his own tenants had been driven from their dwelling, without any appearance of rebellion being proved against them.

This noble marquis is a very frequent, but very indifferent speaker.

He holds the place of register of the hanaper-office in Chancery, and is hereditary constable of Hillsborough Fort.

MARQUIS OF WATERFORD.

THIS nobleman is *maternally* descended of an ancient French family, many centuries established in Ireland, of the name of **DE LA POER**; his *paternal* ancestors are of later date, viz. the **BERESFORDS**, who settled in Ireland the latter end of the last century.

This nobleman is the leader of the aristocratic party in Ireland, and has so much weight, that the English government, it is said, do nothing without him.

He it was who, with his brother the commissioner, had sufficient power to throw out Lord Fitzwilliam, and upset his administration altogether. Lord Fitzwilliam declared, in the English House of Lords, that it was impossible for him to effect any good in that kingdom, unless he could destroy the power of the Beresfords.

He possesses very little landed property in Ireland, but holds many lucrative places, and has the most extensive power and patronage in the kingdom. He favours the UNION.

MARQUIS

MARQUIS OF DROGHEDA.

THIS nobleman descends from the family of the “Moore’s,” and is joint post-master-general with the Earl of ELY, constable of Maryborough, a general officer, and a knight of St. Patrick.

He is a man of no great landed property, but holds lucrative places, and uniformly supports administration. He favours the union.

As an orator, he is of no consideration; in fact, he seldom speaks:—as a private character, he is much esteemed.

* He was formerly muster-master-general of the forces in Ireland, and afterwards master of the ordnance, in which post he was succeeded by LORD CARTHAMPTON,

EARL OF ORMOND.

WALTER, *Earl of Ormond*, is chief of the illustrious house of BUTLER, or, as the name was antiently written, BOTELER; which surname they assumed, in consequence of their office of *hereditary BUTLER*, or *CUP-BEARER*, to the king.

He is also premier earl of the kingdom.

This title has lain dormant since the beginning of the reign of George I. till within these few years, when it was claimed by John, the late earl, before the Irish House of Lords, which decided in his favour.

JAMES, the great Duke of Ormond, was suspected of having entered into a cabal with the Lords *Oxford*, *Bolingbroke*, &c. to restore the excluded family of STUART. On the accession of George I. his Grace was attacked by the whole power of an irritated government; and fearing to abide the event, fled to France,

France*, where he shortly after died. In the mean time, the English parliament passed an act of attainder, which deprived him of his dukedom, and numerous other titles in England and Ireland, and forfeited to the crown his princely domains in both kingdoms.

As this act was passed in the English parliament *only*, Mr. JOHN BUTLER, representative of the house of ORMOND, taking advantage of the declaration of its independence by the Irish parliament, conformed to the

* The flight of this nobleman certainly appears extraordinary. SIR JOSEPH JEKYLL used to say, that there was enough to bring BOLINGBROKE to the block, but no one else of his associates in the ministry. The Duke had promised Lord BATHURST to stay in England, but was prevailed on by ATTENBOROUGH to fly to France.

The generosity and good-nature of the Duke of Ormond was unbounded; and SWIFT could hardly mention, without tears, what he felt, when his *achievements*, in the choir of St. Patrick's, was, on his attainder, ordered to be taken down.

The Duke said that King James II. once lent him CARDINAL DE RETZ' memoirs in MS. with the present chasms in them filled up.—His own memoirs were, it is believed, after his death, brought over to Ireland.

Church of Ireland, and preferred his claim to the *Irish* titles of his family, which was allowed.

An idea may be formed of the magnitude of the property forfeited by the Duke of *Ormond*, from this circumstance:—the portion of their ancient inheritance, now preserved to the family, would let for near 50,000l. per annum: and this was no more than the *jointure* of the last duchess, who being of a mild and irreproachable character, was suffered, notwithstanding the attainder of the duke her husband, to retain it till her death; which, having taken place many years afterwards, when party-heat had subsided, either the grandfather or great grandfather of the present earl took possession of it without the smallest opposition on the part of government.

WALTER, the present earl, is son of Earl JOHN, by the only child of the late Earl of Wandesford.

He is a young man of an aspiring disposition, and is believed, from his uniform support
of

of government in a legislative union, and it's other measures, to have in view a new creation, if not a *restoration* of the old title of DUKE OF ORMOND.

A jealousy of some centuries has subsisted between this and the *Leinster* family ; and we should not be suprized, if his lordship should make very great sacrifices to obtain a restoration of his ancient ducal honours, which would give him precedence over the ancient rivals of his house. Be this as it may, his great influence in the county of Kilkenny has undoubtedly been very serviceable to government.

LORD SOMERTON,

ARCHBISHOP OF CASHELL,

DESCENDS from the numerous family of the AGARS *.

Some of his relations, male and female, have made themselves remarkable, by a conduct of *dissipation*, that would scarce gain belief in this country; and which certainly would not have been tolerated in it with impunity.

This nobleman very early in life distinguished himself for eloquence.

At his first starting in politics, he was a patriot:—his conversion came with his arch-bishopric.

He speaks often, with great eloquence, and *always* with administration.

* His relatives are the late Countess of BRANDON, Lord CLIFDEN, Lord CALLAN, and Lord MENDIP, besides a brother, a dignitary in the church, and well known to the judges upon the Munster circuit.

LORD

LORD SHANNON*.

THIS nobleman had once so much influence, that he could command sixteen votes in the House of Commons ; his influence arose from his borough interest and connections, and lies chiefly in Munster.

It was the great object of the Marquis Townshend's administration, to weaken, if not annihilate, this interest, which he in part effected. His lordship was at this time a patriot, and sufficiently powerful to controul the Beresfords ; he has since joined the court, but lost his influence. He is a nobleman of very considerable talents, though an indifferent

* The first *Boyle*, who went an adventurer to Ireland in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, did not possess in worldly substance, when he landed in that kingdom, to the value of more than 27l. including a pair of silk or velvet breeches, which he did not forget to enumerate among the other articles of his little stock. This man by bowing, and remarkable industry, acquired, in the course of time, estates and lands worth 18,000l. a year, in the reign of Charles I. so that, at that period, he was richer than the famous Mr. Thynne was, many years afterwards, by 8000 a-year ; who, on account of his great landed property, was known by the name of **Tom of TEN THOUSAND**. This Mr. Boyle was raised to the dignity of Earl of Cork ; and he had the unparalleled honour of seeing every one of his sons, except one, who refused a peerage, seated with himself in the

House

indifferent speaker, and is related by blood or marriage to some of the first houses in England and Ireland. He is *for* the union.

House of Lords. One of his sons was created Viscount Kynalmeaky—another was Earl of Orrery—a third was Lord Shannon—his eldest was styled Lord Dungarvon—and the fifth son, who was the famous philosopher, Robert Boyle, had an offer of a peerage, which he thought proper to decline.

From the Mr. Boyle, who was the first Earl of Cork, are descended the Duke of Devonshire, who is the representative of the eldest son of that Earl, by his mother, the Lady Charlotte Boyle, sole daughter and heir of Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork and Burlington; in right of whom, his grace enjoys an estate of upwards of 12,000l. a year in the county of Cork, and the most dignified office in Ireland, that of hereditary Lord High Treasurer.

From this first Earl of Cork is descended the present Earl of Orrery, to whom also the earldom of Cork descended, on the death of the last Earl of Burlington, who was also Earl of Cork. His lordship is lord-lieutenant of the county of Somerset, and an English baron, by the title of Lord Boyle of Marston. And from the same paternal ancestor is also descended the Earl of Shannon, who has the blue ribbon of St. Patrick, and is muster-master-general of Ireland. His lordship is also a peer of England, by the title of Lord Carleton.

From the above circumstances it will appear, that Boyle, the first adventurer of the Boyle family, carried his *twenty-seven pounds*’ worth of goods to a good market; and that he acquired more wealth, in the course of some twenty or thirty years in Ireland, than all the Irish fortune-hunters ever gained in England.

LORD CLONCURRY.

HIS lordship descends from a very industrious and reputable family in Dublin, who amassed a large fortune by trade.

The *ennobling* spirit of his *Britannic* majesty is not bounded by the limits of England: the genial warmth of his fostering influence pervades the sister kingdom, many of whose natives have been, in the present reign, elevated to the peerage.*

Among them is the noble and *puissant* Lord "CLONCURRY," a few years back only a dealer in *blankets*; but having acquired some fortune, he transmigrated to France, where he purchased a large estate. It is supposed he was then induced to this step, as being a Roman-catholic; but his religion did not, in the eyes of his gallant neighbours, compensate for the supposed defects arising from *primeval littleness*. The French nobility insulted him, and he complained without finding redress;

* See Note (b).

accordingly, he sold his land, and returned to Ireland, where, a short time after, he read his recantation, and was made a *baronet* by the title of SIR NICHOLAS LAWLESS, and afterwards a *peer* by his present title.

MR. CONRY, an ingenious gentleman of the Irish bar, presented the world with a comedy, in which occurs a very laughable scene, where the SQUIRE, who is the hero of the piece, excites much risibility, by being tossed in a *blanket*. His lordship sat in one of the boxes, but, as lords are now more frequently met with than in the niggard days of old Queen Bess, he passed unnoticed till the above unlucky scene, and would probably have so continued during the whole representation, had it not been for the unseasonable address of an enraptured female in the adjoining box, who transported with what was passing before her, could not forbear crying out,

CLONCURRY, CLONCURRY,
Come here in a hurry,
And see my comical squire;
Tho' toss'd up so high,
Yet, 'twixt you and I,
The blankets have toss'd you much higher.

It is easy to conceive the effect of this *impromptu* on his lordship, and the audience.

His parliamentary conduct is always favourable to the measures of administration, and he is a very tolerable speaker.

The late Earl *Clonmell*, lord chief justice of the King's-bench, married his niece, the daughter of his brother the *banker*, with an immense fortune.

LORD CHARLEMONT*.

THIS nobleman, whose line of ancestry is extensive and noble, unites great virtue with learning, taste, and talents.

His lordship spent great part of his early life abroad. He returned to his native country about the age of thirty-two, whither he was hastened by a disorder, contracted as supposed from poison administered by the jealousy of a woman, with whom he had an amorous intercourse. The malignity of the disorder baffled the skill of all the physicians abroad ; he was at length, however, cured by the celebrated physician, Dr. LUCAS.

His lordship has several children, the eldest of whom (Francis William) LORD CAULFIELD, was educated at the college of Dublin†.

From

* See a full account of this nobleman's family, in the *Europ. Mag.* for 1784, p. 83.

† It is said, his lordship would have lived a single life, but for the following singular circumstance : his brother, Colonel

From the moment he embarked in public life, he has invariably promoted the best interests of his country.

The borough of Charlemont has never shared that fate so common to most boroughs — *it has been never sold*. Its representatives have been distinguished for virtue and talents.

Mr. Grattan was returned for this borough, who wrought the independence of Ireland; and his lordship largely contributed to that

Colonel Caulfield (who, with his family, were since drowned, in 1774, in a storm, between Dublin and Park-gate), was walking with his lordship, in a particular part of the *Marino*, a beautiful seat of his lordship's, near Dublin, when the peer observed a venerable tree in decay, and told his brother he would remove it. The colonel told him, he might do as he thought proper while the estate was in his hands, but all those trees he had planted, and the other embellishments he had made, *he* would remove entirely. His lordship felt himself hurt, and related the anecdote to Dr. LUCAS that day at dinner. The doctor told his lordship, he had it in his power to prevent him by marrying, and took that opportunity of recommending the daughter of a decayed gentleman of his acquaintance; and his lordship was accordingly soon united to Miss HICKMAN, daughter of Luke Hickman, esq. of the county of Clare.

great event, by his vote, his influence, and example.

He is no orator, nor does he affect the character; but generally gives a silent vote, or a vote accompanied with very few words. He is always attended to with the highest respect, being allowed by all to be a man of sound sense and extensive observation. He is a constant attendant on the House, and takes minutes of every thing that passes.

To give a true idea of his character, we need only say, that when his country was asserting its claims to an independent and free constitution, when it was feared that the business in the end might be decided by arms, *the whole kingdom* turned its eyes upon the Earl of Charlemont, as a leader, who might be trusted with the fate of Ireland, whom dangers could not intimidate, nor gold corrupt. His lordship was raised, by the *unanimous* voice of the people, to the situation of commander-in-chief of an army of 80,000 freemen, self-appointed and self-paid, including all the gentry and nobility of the kingdom.

A dif-

A difference of opinion arising on the question of admitting the Catholics to participate in the power of the state, his lordship resigned. This opinion, however, he has since changed, having supported the catholic claim to the elective franchise, which parliament acceded to in 1796, and he is at present an advocate for catholic emancipation.

He is a friend to reform, and was among the first of those, who, when the question was agitated *, and the great difficulty appeared to be, how individuals should be satisfied for the annihilation of their property, made an offer of a voluntary surrender of their boroughs to the public.

Of that system of coercion, which preceded the late insurrection, of the burning

* About this time, the following lines were fixed up in various parts of the Parliament-house, and city of Dublin :

To put an end to all dissension,
Let needy GRATTAN have a pension ;
BUCK's USHER* on the bench be seated,
And BUSH† a Baronet created ;
Aspiring BURGH be made a lord,
And NAPPER TANDY have a cord.

* Baron Yelverton.

† A celebrated Schoolmaster.

villages, hanging their inhabitants, transporting persons suspected without trial, *strangling and whipping, to extort confession*, and billeting the military at free quarters, in districts in which individuals had been disorderly, his lordship has been the declared enemy.

He was one of the few, who supported Earl Moira in his parliamentary reprobation of these measures, and in recommending those of peace and reconciliation.

He supported Great Britain in the war, merely because Great Britain was engaged in it, without any relation to the abstract merit of the contest, and acceded to every measure which government thought necessary, against the assault of foreign force, and domestic disaffection*.

He *opposes* the union.

* His lordship has never asked a favour from the crown, and has never received one, unless a blue ribband might be considered a favour: but in fact his acceptance of it was a credit to the founder of the order of St. Patrick, for it would have brought discredit upon that new, though illustrious, institution, if merit like his lordship's had been overlooked, when the first ribbands and stars belonging to it were bestowed.

LORD CARHAMPTON*.

THIS nobleman will never be forgotten, in *England*, for his conduct in the unconstitutional business of the *Middlesex* election.

A spirit

* The grandfather of the present earl, was HENRY LUTTREL (heir to his brother SIMON LUTTREL, Governor of Dublin, 1687), who married Elizabeth, daughter to CHARLES JONES, Esq. of Halken, in the county of Flint, by ELIZABETH, daughter of Sir SIMON CLARKE, of Warwickshire, Bart. and had issue by her two sons, ROBERT who died on his travels, and SIMON the late Earl CARHAMPTON, born 1713, died in 1787, who was created BARON IRNHAM in 1768, VISCOUNT CARHAMPTON in 1780, and made an EARL in 1785; his lordship married the only daughter and heiress of Sir NICHOLAS LAWES, by whom he had HENRY LAWES, the present earl. He went to law with his father, and they actually pleaded in *propriâ personâ* against each other, in the Court of Chancery, in Ireland, with great ability, the father with more logic than the son, and the son with more law than equity.

By a settlement between the father and son, the mansion-house of L—— was settled upon the latter by the former, for a term of years, which the old lord survived, and he demanded back possession of the property. The son withheld it, and those who knew his motives justified him. The suit, however, terminated against the son; L—— mansion-house was restored by a decree of the Lord

A spirit of senseless enterprise, the unembarrassed faculty of opposing general sentiments, and the contempt of public reputation, are not qualities formed to conciliate either regard or admiration, but on the contrary to inspire disgust, apprehension, and terror.

He is, if possible, still more unpopular in *Ireland*, having joined the Beresfords in their principles of coercion, and from the circumstance of the grandfather of the late earl, having betrayed King JAMES. The lower class of people in Ireland, to this day, keep it in remembrance, and when they want to express themselves strongly against any man who has betrayed a friend, they call him A LUTTREL.

Chancellor. The house, prior to the son's resigning it, was stripped of every movable; for which the father again complained to Chancery, alleging, that it was not restored in the condition intended by the decree. The father, among other particulars, stated that his family pictures were gone, and his furniture also, so that he had not a spit to a roast his meat upon, but was obliged to substitute a string. Lord Carhampton, previous to his decease, had every matter prepared to lodge an appeal against this decision:—he had even distributed his briefs.

As.

As a speaker, he is by no means high in estimation ; his *manner* is vehement and passionate.

He is Master-general of the Ordnance, and a warm supporter of the measures of administration.

LORD

LORD ALTAMONT,

DESCENDS from a branch of the NEALE family. JOHN BROWNE, his grandfather, had a small fortune in the county of Mayo, which he improved by *commerce*, and by a marriage with Miss Kelly, the daughter of an opulent planter in Jamaica, from whom his son, the late *Earl of Altamont*, assumed the name of *Kelly*.

JOHN, the present earl, and his brother the Right Honourable DENNIS BROWNE, member for the county of Mayo, were by no means conspicuous for early talents. DENNIS endeavours to compensate, for the want of *brilliancy* of talents, by the *frequency* of his speaking,

Endeavours to excel and to be distinguished for personal merits, by those born in the higher orders of life and nursed in the lap of affluence, may justly claim peculiar indulgence, both as being uncommon and of eminent use in exciting emulation; but however just this may be in general, the observation

vation of the rule can never apply to that daring confidence, which, depending altogether upon rank, obtrudes its exhibitions without any previous pains of preparation, and demands for the swaggering bluster of station, that attention and regard which is alone due to modest genius and unassuming ability.

The influence of an early profession, not friendly to diffidence, may sometimes be pleaded in extenuation of the latter, but nothing, except an over-weening opinion of superior parts, joined to the insolence of new rank, can produce the former; an opinion seldom justified by the event, and which even when most successful, displays more vanity than judgment.

He has a full, strong, and distinct voice; his language is neither elegant nor animated; little adapted to command the attention, conciliate the regard, or invigorate the minds of his hearers, and is alike deficient in philosophical clearness, and grammatical precision; he, for the most part, expresses himself in a peremptory magisterial tone, and is abundant

ant without selection, and flowing without energy; his delivery is at times so rapid as to embarrass his pronunciation, and destroy all propriety of emphasis; his manner is vehement and overbearing, and his action ungraceful, belabouring the air without mercy.

In argument he is dilated and diffuse; and his arrangement ill calculated to reflect light upon his reasoning; it has no claims to regularity or order.

What he advances, he does with apparent peculiar courage, or fear of contradiction, and is obviously the unborrowed property of the speaker; heavy, if not solid, and occasionally sparkling, if not brilliant.

His parliamentary conduct is not easily described by any one specifick term, for it has proceeded from its outset, undulating from the court party to opposition, in a course not unlike Hogarth's line of beauty, but without any marked consistency or plan.

DENNY BALLOON,
a School-fellow.

LORD

LORD INCHIQUIN*.

MURROUGH O'BRIEN!!! Most strange it is, that this man, the friend of *Burke*, the friend of *Earl Fitzwilliam*, should not have attended in his place in the Irish parliament, where the antiquity of his family, and his own personal consideration, must have had great

* The Honourable JOHN O'BRIEN, known by the name of SKY ROCKET JACK, was this nobleman's own brother, and his widow, a very amiable and accomplished woman, is now living, in very distressed circumstances.

Few men have been more *unfortunate* at sea, and few *fortunate* as this gentleman.

He was brought up to the sea, and at an early period of life made a lieutenant in the navy; his commission bears date the 28th November, 1747; his first misfortune at sea was on the coast of India, where his ship was wrecked, and every soul on board perished, except Mr. O'Brien and four more persons. On his return to Europe, he was cast away near the Cape of Good Hope, but had the good fortune to gain the shore alive.

The Dutch governor, finding that he was a man of quality, supplied him with every necessary for continuing his voyage, and provided him a cabin in one of the Dutch homeward-bound East-Indiamen. When all Mr. O'Brien's baggage, &c. which had been furnished by the governor

of

great effect in supporting the independence of his country. Still more strange is it, that this actual descendant of an ancient line of kings, should ingloriously prefer a seat in the

of the Cape, was put on board, a Dutch governor of some of the eastern settlements in India, who was to return to Europe in the same ship, found himself rather straightened for room, on account of the number of his family, and other passengers. He applied therefore to the governor of the Cape, and told him that he would esteem it a particular favour, if he would prevail on the other passengers to quit the ship, and leave it entirely to his family and suite.

The governor wishing to oblige this gentleman, spoke to the passengers, but particularly to Mr. O'Brien, and told them, they would much oblige him if they would give up their births to the Asiatic governor, in return for which, he pledged himself to procure them excellent accommodations on board another ship, that was to sail at the same time. They complied with the governor's wishes, and removed to another ship; when, in little more than twenty-four hours after they had left the Cape, Mr. O'Brien saw the ship he had quitted founder in a hard gale of wind, and every one on board perished. This was the third escape. In some few years after, he was stationed on board the Dartmouth of fifty guns. The ship fell in with the Gloriofo, a Spanish man-of-war of superior force, and gallantly engaged her for several glasses. Mr. O'Brien was in his station between decks, when the gunner ran up to him, and, with wildness

the English House of Commons, to the high honours he might possess in his own country !!

Such are *now* the O'BRIENS !!

wildness and despair in his looks, cried out, “O Sir, the powder-room”—Lieutenant O'Brien heard no more from him, for the ship instantly blew up.—One might have imagined that this would have been the end of all his hair-breadth escapes, and that it was morally impossible that he could survive such a catastrophe as this; nevertheless he did survive it, and was afterwards found floating upon the carriage of a gun. From this circumstance it was conjectured, that he had been blown out at a port-hole with one of the guns, and that by some inconceivable means he had rested upon the carriage. He was picked up by the Duke privateer, and treated with all possible care, his clothes were all in tatters, torn in some places, and burned in others.

This dreadful accident was not capable of sinking his spirits, who was always sprightly and gay. When he came to himself, and was introduced to the captain of the Duke, he said to him with great gravity, “Sir, “you will excuse me for appearing before you in such a “dress; for I left my ship with so much *precipitation*, that “I had not time to put on better clothes.”

LORD HOBART,

WAS secretary to LORD WESTMORLAND, afterwards to LORD CAMDEN, and still holds the place of Clerk of the Pleas of the Exchequer in Ireland.

Mr. Hobart's voice is clear, full, well-toned, and has sufficient compass, but he injures it by a species of affectation, that reduces it nearly to a feminine lisp ; his pronunciation is correct and judicious, and his elocution properly tempered, between the extremes of too rapid, and too languid a delivery.

His action is best described by negatives, it is *not* awkward, it is *not* stiff, it is *not* insipid.

His language is free, easy, and unembarrassed, clear without purity, and simple without correctness ; it flows with facility, but neither animates nor elevates. The spirit of his

his manner is pleasing, and he has the caution to restrain his fire within the limits of discretion; although it burns strongly, it never blazes.

In debate he is rather desultory than close, and diffuse than compact; apparently more intent to strike the ear, than convince the understanding.

His arrangement, though void of all method, seems not without order. The *matter* of his speeches, it is not the product of much investigation, but the ready effusion of a man of information.

Brought into parliament by administration, and enjoying a place, in some measure, created for him, his every faculty is dedicated to the service of the minister.

The Directors of the East-India company voted him a pension of 1500*l.* per annum, for his services in India, where he was appointed governor of Bengal.—The Court of Proprietors were afterwards called to confirm

this vote, when the *only* persons who spoke, were those *in favour of the pension*: without a single word having been said on the other side the question, they almost unanimously agreed *not* to confirm it.

EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.

THE Right Honourable Edward Stratford, Baron of Baltinglass, Viscount Amiens, and Earl of Aldborough, is descended from one of those persons, who followed the fortunes of Oliver Cromwell, and became thereby possessed of a vast tract of forfeited lands, in the county of Wicklow, where this family was first settled and established. The present nobleman, both in public and private life, has been uniformly conspicuous, sometimes opposing, oftentimes supporting, the existing administration. In the former instance, he published a very inflammatory and severe pamphlet, abounding with the most pointed strictures against the Earl of Clare ; the consequence of which was, the institution of a very determined and spirited prosecution, in the Court of King's Bench, against him, and having been convicted, he was sentenced to fine and imprisonment ; *both* were in part executed, but in consideration of apparent contrition and apology, the term of imprisonment was shortened, and he has since supported the measures of administration.

As a speaker he is tolerable, but his manner is pompous and so far disgusting.

He is very opulent, having large estates in both kingdoms, and in favour of the union.

There are many curious anecdotes attaching to the *female* part of the family, but being of an unpleasant nature, we shall wave the relation of them.

LORD CARYSFORD.

THIS nobleman was educated at Eton, and was there esteemed a good and elegant scholar. His *temper* had yet more goodness and elegance to boast of: he was a cotemporary with Lord CAERMARTHEN and Lord EGREMONT, and, though not so *refined* as the one, nor so *festive* as the other, had a *patri-cian* something about him more *elevated* than either; we may call it *the ethecism* of his mind, the early consciousness of that virtue, which, with all the best emotions of filial piety, afterwards brought him post-haste from France, to make the well-known renunciations of an entail, for the accommodation of his father.

His lordship has a seat in the English House of Commons, for Stamford; and was, at his first outset in political life, remarkably fond of speaking, and spoke often, although with very indifferent success: his utterance is disagreeably slow, tedious, and hesitating,

perpetually interrupted by the disagreeable interjections, AH ! AH ! AH ! AH !

He is joint keeper of the rolls in Ireland, with Lord Glendore, votes with administration, and is in favour of the union.

LORD

LORD CONYNGHAM.

THIS nobleman has very large estates in the Isle of Thanet, and in Ireland also.

He is establishing, at present, among his tenantry, extensive cotton-manufactories, providing for the poor, *GRATIS*, all the necessary utensils for the purpose, and advancing the means of procuring the necessary articles.

These facts speak for themselves, and

“ Truth is panegyric here.”

A man,

*“ The states whole thunder born to wield,
And shake alike the senate and the field,”*

is confessedly an uncommon character; the habits of warlike pursuits often disqualify the mind to the attainment of those acquisitions, essentially necessary to the discharge of civil employments; his lordship is, however, an exception to this general observation; who, although he very early in life entered into the army, and continued in it long (having been, for some years, a lieutenant-colonel), has distinguished himself much as a parliamentary orator.

To the advantage of a good voice, but with some tendency to a lisp, he adds a pronunciation perfectly accurate, and a delivery well-tempered between vehemence and languor, but more inclining to rapidity than slowness.

His language is precise, and unites elegance with force, sparing, though not destitute, of ornament; it keeps more within the level track of animated conversation, than soaring into the regions of figurative and sublime expressions.

His manner is warm and spirited, but too much marked with the remains of soldier-like importance, and military insolence; his action is strong, forcible, and energetic, pointedly conveying his sentiments, and evidently the effusion of the moment, not the studied exhibition of the day.

In reasoning, he is condensed and argumentative, pointed and powerful.

His speeches are full of instruction; apposite, solid, well digested.

In

In his political capacity, he has ever been a steady supporter of administration, and has *always* deserved the thanks of the minister, though, *perhaps, not always* those of his country.

LORD LIFFORD*;

THE son of the late lord chancellor, and a bishop.

He votes with administration.

* His father was made lord chancellor on the death of Chancellor Bowes, in 1767; he died in Dublin, in the year 17th, and the 80th year of his age. The profits of the chancellorship were estimated at 12,000l. per annum, and Lord Lifford's personal property at 150,000l. He was the longest in office of any chancellor since Edward the First's time; and of any since the Conquest, save two—*Stephen Ridel*, in Richard the First's time, and *Formund Le Brun*, in the reign of Henry the Third; the first officiated thirty-three years, and the second twenty-four, whereas Lord Lifford officiated only twenty-two.

Before Mr. Lifford accepted the seals, they went a-begging in England, having been refused by Baron Smyth, Judge Aston, and Sewell, master of the rolls: when accepted by Hewett, he was a *puisne* judge of the King's-bench.

He was born at Coventry, and was the eldest son of Mr. Wm. Hewett, a mercer and draper there. He served his clerkship to a Mr. James Birch, an attorney. He married a daughter of the Dean of Worcester.

In 1761, he was elected member of parliament for Coventry, which he represented till 1766, when he was made an *English* judge, and the following year promoted to the *Irish* seals.

EARL

EARL CLANWILLIAM.

HIS lordship is descended from the family of the MEADS, in the county of *Tipperary*. He is one of the Privy-council, and, though no speaker, *a voter* for administration.—He is FOR the union.

This nobleman has DISSIPATED a noble fortune.

His attachment to the LADIES, and to the TURF, and *certain* ANECDOTES respecting him, are too generally known, to justify the relation of them here.

LORD

LORD DONOUGHMORE.

HE is the eldest son of the famous Hely Hutchinson, of whom Lord Townsendl said, that if his Majesty gave him the whole kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland*, he would beg the *Isle of Man* for a cabbage-garden.

It is singular, that he was a peer, while his father was a commoner. His father, unwilling to relinquish the good things he held, refused a title, but obtained it for his lady, and his son inherited on the death of his mother, in the life-time of the father.

He is an admirable swordsman ; and though far from being of a quarrelsome temper, very ready to come forward in affairs of honour. He fought several duels ; and one, in particular, upon occasion of his father's election at Cork, with a Mr. BAGWELL.

He speaks often and well ; but he is by no

no means an inheritor of his father's talents, though, like him, he is fond of a *good thing*.

He holds the places of a commissioneer of the customs, and treasurer, or second remembrancer, of the exchequer.

LORD LONGUEVILLE.

ALTHOUGH constantly voting with the Marquis of Buckingham, he was a popular character:—his princely fortune of 20,000*l.* per annum, set him above all suspicion of pecuniary motives. Such is his parliamentary interest, that he brings no less than EIGHT members into the Irish House.

On the question of the regency, he voted with administration, as he does upon the question of the UNION.

As a speaker, his lordship distinguished himself early in life, by the unaffected ease of manner, and the promptitude of his replies.

Being the representative of a great commercial city (Cork), he has particularly applied himself to commerce; and thereby stored a vigorous and active mind with various and useful information.

He, at times, delivers his sentiments with a degree of rapidity not favourable to his articulation, and, confident of the import-

importance of his matter, he does not bestow a thought on the graces of manner, or the embellishments of language. His *manner* is, however, impressive; and as he studiously avoids *dilating* his speeches, by the introduction of extraneous matter, perhaps no member of the House, when rising to speak, commands more attention.

He is the uncle of Arthur O'Connor, Esq. who has made so much noise.—See O'Connor, page .

O'BERNE,

BISHOP OF MEATH.

FORMERLY an abbé in France. He afterwards became secretary to the Duke of Portland *, when lord-lieutenant in 1782; through whose interest, he was made dean of Lismore, and afterwards bishop of Ossory.

He is for the union.

* When in France, he played at tennis with Mr. Fox, then on a tour, by whom he was afterwards introduced to the Duke of PORTLAND.

LORD

LORD BRISTOL,

BISHOP OF DERRY.

THIS peer and prelate is one of the most eccentric characters of the present period, fertile as it is in every thing that is whimsical and grotesque. He justifies the observation of the famous Lady M. W. Montague, who in speaking of his lordship's family, remarked, that it exhibited a *third* description in the human race, for there were *men*, *women*, and *Harveys*.

He was, about the year 1784, returned as a delegate to the military convention of *Dungannon* in Ireland, and afterwards presided in the national convention, then sitting in *Dublin*, whose avowed object was to carry parliamentary reform even at the point of the bayonet: and he was certainly one of the most turbulent of those turbulent times.

An instance of this disposition is on record, in the reply of his lordship to one of his volunteer companies, couched in these words :

F

“ My

“ My principles are fixed firm as the rock on
“ which my cathedral is founded: a convul-
“ sion of nature may shake the one, but no
“ convulsion of nature or state, can move the
“ other.”

In this *fit* of patriotism, he erected two splendid mansions in his diocese of Derry, forsaking his lady, relations, and his original country, to live the rest of his days in Ireland: One of his seats, **THE DOWN HILL**, standing on a promontory, washed by the Atlantic, he enriched with the most precious relics of *Herculaneam* and *Pompée*; and the other, in the neighbourhood of *Lough Neagh*, is a model of modern magnificence.

His lordship, a few years since, went to *Italy*, to collect the precious spoils of that once interesting country; and he and his antiques have shared the same fate.—

His lordship is a prisoner of the French, and now at *Milan*.

It is curious, that this nobleman, who is now arrested by the French democrats, was in

in 1784 furiously threatened by the *Irish cabinet* with the same incarceration, for his violent agitating spirit in that kingdom.

He was, at that time, at the head of the popular party, and was conducted to take his seat in the convention, sitting in the metropolis, by the Derry dragoons, at the head of whom was the late **LORD ROBERT FITZ-GERALD.**

His lordship's arms are "two daggers;" —it is hoped they will not prove **OMINOUS**. His motto is, "*Je n'oublierai jamais:*" should he escape, he will have *reason to remember* his present awkward situation.

EARL BELLAMONT*.

THIS nobleman was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Bellamont in 1767: he is of the family of the COOTES of COLOONY.

He is a man of gallantry and high spirits, and will not soon be forgotten, on account of his

* It has been said of this nobleman, that he fell in love with a beautiful woman, whom he wanted to possess on cheaper terms than marriage; but that finding insuperable difficulties, he proposed *a private marriage*. The lady consented; but the day before it took place, secretly (and unknown to the earl) read her recantation of the catholic religion. After the ceremony, the earl proposed a journey *into the country*, the lady however had taken care to invite her friends *in town*, in her new name of Lady Bellamont. The eclaireissement took place, much to the discontent of the noble earl:—but the deed was irrevocable.

This reminds us of an anecdote told of the celebrated HENRY FIELDING.—

The son of one BOOZ DE PABA, a celebrated Jew, was on the point of marrying a young Christian lady. His father made no objection to the intended wife's religion, but was greatly dissatisfied with the match, on account of her small fortune; in consequence of which he refused his consent. The son, who was most desperately in love, threatened the

father

his duel with the present Marquis Townshend, immediately on his resignation of the viceroyship of Ireland, in which he was badly wounded.

His lordship is possessed of a strong mind, some reading, and much observation: he opposes the union, although a member of the Privy-council.

As a speaker he is of little consideration; his manner is disgustingly pompous. Once, speaking of own county, the county of *Cavan*, he thus described it: “ It is all acclivity and

father that he would marry her without his consent; and the father, in his turn, threatened that he would not give him a shilling. The young Jew answered, that he would force him to it: and that if he refused *dividing* his substance with him, he would get himself *baptized*, to enjoy the benefit of the English law, which assigns to a *Jew* child, becoming *Christian*, the *half* of his father’s property. Booz, confounded at this answer, went to consult *Fielding*, to know if such a law really existed. *FIELDING* told him, that it certainly did exist, and was in full force: but added, if he would give him ten guineas, he would put him in a way of frustrating his son’s hopes, so that he should not be able to get a farthing.—Booz instantly told down the ten guineas. *FIELDING*, having pocketed the money, told him, his only remedy was—*TO TURN CHRISTIAN HIMSELF.*

“ declivity, without the intervention of an
“ horizontal plane ; the hills are all rocks,
“ the valleys are all bogs, and the people all
“ savages.”

His lordship publishes his own speeches.

LORD

LORD GLANDORE.

His lordship's father, the late earl, was, in 1771, advanced to the dignity of a *Viscount*, by the title of Viscount *Croftie*, of Ardfert, in the county of Kerry; and, in 1776, was created an *Earl*, by the title of *Glandore*, in the county of Cork. His lordship, in 1745, married *Theodosia Bligh*, third daughter of John, first Earl of *Darnley*; and by her had issue two sons, *Maurice*, born in 1749, who died the same year, and *John*, Viscount *Croftie*, born in 1752, the present earl, who succeeded to the title, on the death of his father, in 1781.

He is a tolerable speaker, speaks often, and always in support of administration.

His manners are perfectly amiable and pleasing; and, from the excellence of his private character, he is held in universal estimation.

LORD PERRY,

WHEN pressed to vote for the union is said to have made this reply : " I never will " give my assent to a measure, which seals the " ruin of my country. I am at present in " an ill state of health ; should I continue so, " and the measure be brought forward, I shall " have myself carried in a litter to the House, " there to give it every opposition in my " power."

He was many years speaker of the House of Commons*, and a distinguished lawyer. In debate, he was rather a *nervous reasoner*, than a florid orator.

His *person*, some years back, was remarkably graceful, and his countenance had great animation ; he is now very old, and has for many years been the idol of the people.

* He succeeded the famous JOHN PONSONBY, father to the present William Brabazon and George Ponsonby, and brother to the late Earl of Bessborough.

LORD ELY.

THE earldom of Ely, many years back, became extinct in the person of an *ideot*; and this nobleman's idiotism became a subject of litigation in Ireland, but before the fact of his being an ideot could be established, he had levied fines, suffered recoveries, and done other legal acts to bar intails, and then made a will and died.

The family of *Hume*, the heirs at law, put in their claim to this immense property, which was resisted by the family of *Loftus*, now earls of Ely, to whom the late earl had devised it.

This cause was of equal consequence and celebrity with the Douglases cause; and excited those commotions and contentions of family interests, that will never be forgotten. After having passed it's several progressive stages, it was the first cause decided in the Irish House of Lords, after the *appellant jurisdiction* had been brought back.

It is necessary to observe, that the decision was in favour of Loftus.

The more reasonable part of the people of Ireland *now*, it is believed, ardently wish the *restoration* of the *appellant jurisdiction* to the kingdom of England.

The present nobleman* is joint post-master with the Marquis of Drogheda—a man of fortune, and extensive borough-interest.

He votes with administration.

* Lord LOFTUS, son of Lord ELY, takes the same side in politics with his father;—both are place-men. This nobleman is *one* of the tellers of the Exchequer.

LORD WESTMEATH.

HIS lordship is a descendant of the family of the NUGENTS.

He is an advocate for the union ; and supports Lord CLARE, although divorced from his niece.

He is but an indifferent speaker ; his voice is low and unharmonious, and his pronunciation thick and indistinct : his action is neither graceful nor otherwise, but ill adapted to an orator : his language is the plain unadorned style of common conversation, neither elevated by figure, nor glowing with energy, and is somewhat deficient both in purity and correctness. In argument, he is diffuse and desultory, and his arrangement is the child of chance, not the offspring of meditation.

He was appointed to a very lucrative place in the administration of the Duke of RUTLAND.

His

His motto, " DECREVI," seems more applicable to his wife than himself;—since she has thought proper to *choose for herself*.

LORD DILLON.

THIS nobleman is the brother of the celebrated “*Arthur Dillon*,” so well known at the court of *France*, who was guillotined, and of the *handsome Dillon*, the favourite of the Queen of France, who was massacred.

He possesses considerable property, power, and influence, which he exerts in favour of the Union.

DR. WILLIAM DIXON,

BISHOP OF DOWNS.

THIS reverend prelate is Mr. Fox's bishop, and is considered a man of profound erudition. He is a fine speaker, and is said, in *manner and character*, very much to resemble the present Bishop of LANDAFF.

He possesses a fine commanding person, is a man of great charity, and exercises a forbearance and humanity to his tenants, unhappily, very uncommon in Ireland.

His *arms* are *two keys*, and the minister has not yet found the successful method of *using* them. He opposes the Union.

LORD

LORD BANTRY

WAS made a peer in 1797, from the active part he took, upon the French landing in BANTRY Bay.

He possesses large property, which he inherits through his grandfather, who made an immense fortune in the profession of the law.

He is a warm supporter of all the measures of government, and an advocate for the union.

LORD

LORD MORNINGTON.

THIS nobleman holds the place of chief remembrancer of the exchequer, and is lately gone out governor-general of Bengal.

He is a knight of St. Patrick, and has been uniformly patronized by the English minister, to whom he owes his present elevation*.

His Irish estate is a very small one, and the mansion-house upon it going to ruin.

* When Lord NORTH was installed chancellor of the university of *Oxford*, Lord MORNINGTON (a student there) was appointed to address his lordship in a set speech, and he spoke with so much eloquence and energy, that it attracted the notice of the new chancellor, who introduced him among the circle of his friends, and paid him the highest compliments; nevertheless, the first entry of Lord Mornington into the House of Commons, was distinguished by his pronouncing a violent philippic against Lord NORTH.

DR. YOUNG,

BISHOP OF CLONFERT,

Is the youngest son of a very respectable family, in the county of Roscommon.

A mitre is *here* placed on the brow of one who does honour to human nature; it is not the meed of political prostitution to a fawning sycophant, or expectant's relative, it is the pure reward of virtue and talent, and will remain an eternal proof of the discriminating wisdom and justice of the donor.

Of all the Fellows of Trinity College, Dr. YOUNG has long been the most distinguished. To an almost intuitive quickness of perception, he unites depth of thought and a soundness of judgment, generally incompatible with brilliancy of fancy.

A numerous family, a heavy portion of collegiate duty, and a very delicate constitution, must have retarded, but fortunately did not prevent, the exercise of these extraordinary qualities. It was reserved for him,

to tread the intricate paths of science, which the immortal NEWTON had not fully explored, and to complete parts of his *Principia*, which that godlike being left unfinished.

His Essay on *Sounds* has been read and admired by all the literati of Europe; but the author remained unhonoured and unpatronized, till CORNWALLIS drew him forth from the humble shade of academic retirement.

As a political character, Dr. Young uniformly maintained the independent interest of the university against ministerial influence, which had even insinuated itself *there*, to poison the fountain of science.

His popularity, as a tutor, gave him one-fourth of all the students for pupils, and, as virtue and affection drew them irresistably to his side, he became necessarily invested with an influence which he would have rather shunned; but that being impossible, he conducted himself with manly spirit and fortitude.

In

In private life, no man was ever more admired, or more justly so ; in him, the most extensive reading, the greatest literary acquirements, weighty talents, and exemplary piety, did not degenerate into monkish austerity, or swell into disgusting self-importance :—“ In wit a man, simplicity a child.” His comprehensive mind can descend from its philosophic heights, and indulge in all the playfulness and vivacity of youth, which, instead of approaching with awe, is always enamoured with his society, as well as instructed by his precepts and example.

LORD MOUNTJOY,

Son of the late Lord Mountjoy (formerly the celebrated LUKE GARDNER), killed by the rebels in the late rebellion.

His grandfather was originally in a very low station, and afterwards a land steward, in which situation he made a large fortune. It has been reported of him, that one day, stepping into his carriage, as the witty Earl of Ross was passing by, his lordship observed, that he wondered Mr. Gardner did not sometimes make a mistake, by stepping *behind* the carriage instead of *into* it. “ It is always better,” replied Gardner, “ to step *into* a carriage than *out of* one ; ” alluding to his lordship’s DISTRESSES at the time, brought upon him by dissipation and extravagance.

The present young nobleman possesses no great vigour of mind, or strength of genius ; his language, when he speaks, is plain and simple, and his manner cold and insipid.

He is the devoted servant of administration.

LORD

LORD MUSKERRY.

THIS nobleman possesses large property, is a courtier, and a warm advocate for the union.

His motto is “*Forti & fideli nihil difficile,*” and he applies it to the event of his favourite political measure.

LORD O'NEAL,

Is descended from the HI NEALS, formerly kings of Ulster, who with a few exceptions gave monarchs to Ireland.

The late Lord JOHN O'NEIL, of *Shanes-Castle*, was made a peer about twelve years since. It is remarkable that he seconded the bill brought in to favour the Roman-catholics, by Lord MOUNTJOY, then LUKE GARDNER, and that both these noblemen fell, fighting against the insurgents.

Lord O'NEIL was in person well proportioned, majestic, handsome, and a most excellent private character.

He seldom spoke, but when he did, it was much above mediocrity ; he was for a long time considered one of the most powerful supporters of opposition.

The present lord is but a YOUTH.

LORD

LORD ROKEBY.

HIS lordship's political sentiments, are strongly marked in his letter to Lord CORNWALLIS against the union. His motto is *appropriate* (NON NOBIS SOLUM, SED TOTO MUNDO NATI), and corresponds with the conduct of his life.

He is descended from a very old and respectable family, being a branch of the ROBINSONS of Struan, in Scotland, whence his ancestors emerged about 150 years since, and settled in Kent.

Sir SEPTIMUS ROBINSON, Knt. father of the present peer, was gentleman usher to George the Second; he gave his son MATTHEW an excellent education, but it was, perhaps, never suspected by the old courtier, that he would become one of the most sturdy patriots of his age, a “Whig,” according to the real meaning of the word, and as such, an assertor of the true principles of English liberty, which called on William the Third,

and placed the present illustrious family on the throne. After a good foundation of classical learning, he sent him to Cambridge, where he remained for several years, and appears to have made considerable progress in his studies, for he procured a fellowship there, which he retains to this day.

In 1754, he succeeded, on the death of his father, to his estate in East Kent, and lived at his mansion there, with all the easy affluence, hospitality, and splendour, that characterised the English gentry of that day, when a land-tax at about two shillings in the pound, and a trifling malt-tax, constituted their only burdens.

During the winter, part of his time was spent in the capital, and in the summer season, he was accustomed to pass away a month or two at Sandgate-castle, where he enjoyed a charming prospect of the coast of France.

In consequence of his vicinity to Canterbury, and a family connexion with that place, he

he had many opportunities of cultivating an intimacy with the principal inhabitants. Being a man of engaging manners, shrewd sense, and independent fortune, they determined to nominate him their representative on the first vacancy; he was accordingly brought into parliament, and he faithfully discharged all the important duties annexed to that situation, for a long series of years.

We find Mr. Robinson, during the whole of the American war, one of the most strenuous opposers of a measure, pregnant with gigantic mischief, and which by the enormous encrease of our national debt, generated oppressive taxes, and became the parent of incalculable misfortunes, to ourselves and our posterity.

He published a pamphlet upon the subject, which was considered the most able production of the day, therein predicting what would follow, and he lived long enough to see all those predictions verified, himself retiring from this wretched scene of politics with virtuous indignation, and from this

this period, passing the life of a private gentleman.

About this time he let his beard grow, till it attained its present *patriarchal* length.

In 1794, he succeeded by the death of his uncle Richard Robinson, Bishop of Armagh Primate of Ireland and Baron Rokeby, of the same kingdom, to his honours as an Irish peer. The patent of creation was granted to that dignitary 26th February, 1777, and by it the remnant vests in the present lord.

His food principally consists of beef tea, which is always ready for him on a sideboard ; and he is very abstemious in respect to drink, water being esteemed by him, as superior to all other liquids whatever. He abhors fires and delights much in the enjoyment of the air, without any other canopy than the heavens ; even in winter his windows are generally open. He was much attached to the fair sex in his youth, and even now is said to be a great admirer of female beauty.

In

In respect to politics, his conduct through life, and to this very hour, has been eminently consistent; it is to principles not men, that he looks up, and he seems to consider a *Stuart* or a *Guelph*, entitled to our praise or our hatred, not on account of their names (for these have no magic with him), but the difference of their respective modes of government.

At the last general election, he crossed the country to *Lenham*, and at the *Chequers* inn, at which he halted, was surrounded by the country people from all the adjoining parts, who took him for a Turk. Thence he proceeded to the Poll-booth, and gave his vote for his old friend *Filmer Honeywood*.

Many ridiculous stories are fabricated respecting him, and among others, that he will not permit any of his tenants to sow barley, because barley may be converted into malt, and malt would pay a tax towards carrying on the war, which he conceives to be an unjust one, &c.

The family of Lord Rokeby, has long possessed

possessed a literary turn, and he himself may justly be considered as a man of letters. It was a relative of his, who wrote the celebrated treatise on *gavelkind*. His eldest sister, Mrs. Montagu, has triumphantly defended the memory and genius of Shakespeare, against the criticisms, perhaps of the greatest man of the day (Voltaire). His other sister, Mrs. Scott who died in 1795, wrote several novels, some of which have attained considerable reputation; his nephew and successor, Morris Robinson, has a taste for poetry; and Matthew Montagu, the brother of the latter, and heir to the celebrated lady of the same name, is author of a pamphlet on Mr. Pitt's administration.

As for his lordship himself, he published the valuable, and now very *scarce* tract alluded to before, at an age when most old men think only of themselves, he has not been inattentive to what he considers the dearest interests of his country, having in 1797 published another excellent pamphlet, entitled, “ An Address to the County of Kent, on their petition to the King, for removing from the councils of his Majesty,
“ his

“ his present Ministers, and for adopting
“ proper means to procure a speedy and
“ happy Peace ; together with a Postscript,
“ concerning the Treaty between the Em-
“ peror of Germany and France, and con-
“ cerning our domestic situation in time to
“ come.”

In short, his lordship, *even independent of his beard*, which alone attracts the gaze of the multitude, may be considered as a very singular man.

LORD ENNISKELLEN.

THIS nobleman has the character of great spirit and intrepidity, of which his eloquence partakes.

He is one of the boldest speakers in the House, without the overbearing, obtrusive manner of *certain* other speakers.

He presided at a court martial that tried one HUGH WOOLAGAN for murder, and *acquitted* him. The lord-lieutenant was so convinced of the delinquent's guilt, and consequently dissatisfied with this determination, that he dissolved the court martial, to the great offence of his lordship.

His lordship *opposes* the union.

LORD

LORD FARNHAM.

THIS nobleman is the brother of the late Robert, Earl of Farnham, who made a large fortune by the law.

He is also said to have been very able in the law and doctrine of CHANCES, for he played deep and successfully.

The present nobleman was also bred a lawyer, and now holds the place of *Prothonotary* of the court of common pleas.

He was formerly BARRY, and afterwards took the name of MAXWELL *, a distinguished speaker in the House of Commons in the time of FLOOD, and remarkable for his great constitutional knowledge.

He is a temperate supporter of administration, and perfectly respectable in private life.

* Earl ROBERT had an only son, LORD VISCOUNT MAXWELL, who died at the Hot-wells at Bristol, some years since, and an only daughter LADY HARRIET, who afterwards married the celebrated DENNIS DALY.

LORD DARNLEY.

THIS nobleman's opinion is favourable to the union, thinking it would benefit his country; but from the temper of the people upon the subject, and the present situation of affairs in Ireland, votes *against* it. He speaks often, but is a very indifferent speaker.

He is an English baron, by the title of Lord Clifton, is high steward of Gravesend, and Milton in Kent, and groom of the stole to the Prince of Wales:—a man of large possessions both in Ireland and England, of an ancient and respectable family, and, what is yet more valuable, of an amiable temper and disposition.

LORD

EARL OF BESBOROUGH.

HE is the *head* of the *Ponsonby* family, who have been many centuries settled in Ireland, and were originally from Normandy.

They enjoy landed property to the amount of 30,000l. per annum ; which has ever been applied to the best of purposes, being one of the most liberal, charitable, and humane of mankind.

The losses his tenants sustained, on account of the *last lord*, being an *absentee*, the present lord made up to them.

He is first cousin to that distinguished lawyer, Mr. GEORGE PONSONBY, and is a man of the most amiable and mild manners. Without at all affecting the character of an orator, he is an excellent speaker, and much attended to.

He takes a decided part *against* the union.
—See Lord Perry, page 72.

LORD FITZWILLIAM*.

THIS nobleman is here introduced for the purpose of briefly observing upon his conduct when viceroy, and his consequent popularity.

He is nearly related to the late Marquis of Rockingham, and certainly adopted his political

* This nobleman's family has been always noted for their liberality, and his lordship keeps up the firm of his noble house.

William Fitzwilliam, the founder of his family, was alderman of Bread-street ward, in 1506: before his death he forgave all his debtors, and wrote on the erased accounts of each, *Amore Dei remitto*. Cardinal Wolsey was the chief means of the worthy alderman acquiring his fortune. After the fall of that great man, Mr. Fitzwilliam very hospitably entertained him, at his seat at Malton in Northamptonshire, where the present earl resides. Henry VIII. was so enraged at this, that he sent for him, and said, " Ha! ha! " how comes it, ha! that you dare entertain a traitor? ha!" Mr. Fitzwilliam modestly replied, " Please your highness, " I did it not from disloyalty, but gratitude." The angry monarch here interrupted him by " ha! ha!" the usual interjections of his rage. Mr. Fitzwilliam, with the tear of gratitude

tical principles: having shewn, in every public situation in which he has acted, the greatest regard and attention to civil liberty.

When he accepted the appointment of lord-lieutenant of Ireland, it was on the condition, that he should have the power of restoring the catholics to their *civil* rights as citizens. Arriving in Ireland with such powers and intentions, he was received as the saviour of the country; but no sooner did he attempt to prepare for conferring on the people the blessings of freedom, which he conceived himself invested with sufficient authority to bestow, than he found his powers restricted, and himself insulted and deluded. Indignant at such treatment, he determined to resign a power, that only mocked him with pageantry without efficiency.

gratitude in his eye, and the burst of loyalty in his bosom, continued, “From gratitude, as he was my old master, “and the means of my greatest fortunes.” Impetuous Harry was somuch pleased with the answer, that he took him heartily by the hand, and said, “Such gratitude, ha! shall “never want a master. Come into my service, worthy “man, and teach my other servants gratitude, for but “few of them have any.” He then knighted him on the spot, and swore him in a privy-counsellor.

Other circumstances also, it may be supposed, not a little contributed to this removal.

During the short time his lordship remained in office, he examined and detected the abuses of the public expenditure ; and to prevent the continuance of it, adopted the plan of the English treasury-board : thus erecting a complete responsibility for originating, checking, and ordering the issues of money. Finding the treasury-board a mere sinecure, and supported by a great national expence, purchased by salaries to former vice-treasurers, the receipts and accounts in the hands of an officer, who united in himself the whole functions of the treasury, he made it effective, and reformed its abuses.

Among the different removals, those of Mr. BERESFORD, and his son, from the different offices of *minister, commissioner of the treasury, store-keeper and banker*, appear to have been the chief cause of the noble earl's recal.

Mr. Beresford is notoriously the devoted agent of English influence ; and, for nearly these

these last thirty years, has uniformly voted with *every* administration.

His lordship inherits from his uncle, the late Marquis of Rockingham, very large estates in the county of Wicklow and Wexford—not less than 20,000*l.* per annum.

EARL OF ATHLONE.

OF the *first* earl, *Bishop Burnet* relates, that his extensive grants from King William, were the only letters patent for those purposes that were confirmed by the Irish parliament.

This law passed in the seventh year of King William, for confirming the outlawries and attainders of the Earl of Limerick and others, and for confirming several grants and patents made to *Goddart, EARL OF ATHLONE*. When this grant was confirmed by a private statute in Ireland, it could not be reaffirmed by the general act of reaffumption, passed in 1698 in England; and the earl prudently sold his grant, and retired to Holland, where his descendants lived till the French invaded that country in 1794. Thus Ireland is now to pay for the prodigality of the family, by an enormous pension, which has lived out of the country for a century.

He is the descendant of General *Ginckill*, who commanded at *Aughrim* for King William, and afterwards took Limerick, which King William besieged in person, but was compelled to raise the siege.

LORD CLERMONT.

THIS nobleman has an appointment on the Prince of Wales's establishment. Within the space of a very few years he has passed through no less than three different degrees of nobility.

He claims his descent from Sir *John Forescue*, the celebrated lord chief-justice of England; and his family have been many years settled in the county of Lowth in Ireland.

He favours the UNION.

MARQUIS

MARQUIS OF LANSDOWN.

THIS nobleman, who is Earl of Shelburne in Ireland, possesses very considerable estates in that kingdom.

As he *constantly* resides in England, where he also enjoys a large property, and is entitled, as a marquis, to a seat in *our* House of Lords, it certainly is his interest that the projected union of the two countries, should take place. His lordship has seldom been known to neglect his private interest; and it therefore is no matter of surprise, if, on the present occasion, he forgets his usual hostility to ministers, and vigorously supports their favourite union.

Some weeks back this noble marquis, in the English House of Lords, delivered a long and able speech in recommendation of this measure; and it was generally reported, that had the opposition in the Irish House of Lords

Lords been in any wise formidable, his lordship would, for the purpose of supporting the measure, have taken his seat in that assembly.

EARL

EARL MOIRA.

THIS noble lord is also a peer of England, by the title of Baron RAWDON, and should an union be carried into effect, can lose nothing of his legislative importance. Though possessed of much property in Ireland, as well as here, he very little resides in that country, and consequently can feel no manner of personal inconvenience from attendance on the British House of Lords.

His lordship, equally respectable in point of private and public character, however opposite to administration in his general conduct, does not hesitate on the question of a legislative union, to grace the list of their supporters with the sanction of his name. Such is the high idea of this nobleman's integrity and talents entertained in both kingdoms, that his co-operation in this important affair, is of singular moment to ministers.

MARQUIS

MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM*.

THIS nobleman enjoys the title and estates of the late EARL NUGENT, in right of his wife the daughter of that nobleman.

The

* The late earl, his father-in-law, filled so large a space in life, and went through so long a course of political adventure and vicissitude, that he cannot properly pass unnoticed *here*.

He died a few years since, aged eighty-seven.

He came first into parliament for St. Mawes, in the year 1741, which was his own borough in right of his wife (*Craggs*). He was re-elected for the same in 1747; and soon after was appointed comptroller of the household to the present king's father. When Mr. Pitt formed his celebrated coalition administration in 1757, he was made a lord of the treasury: and the year before the late king died, he was appointed one of the vice-treasurers of Ireland. In 1766, he was appointed first lord of trade; but two years after, he resigned that post; and was re-appointed one of the vice-treasurers of Ireland. This was the last place he held, and he resigned it in 1782.

In politics he was one of that party, who call themselves the *King's friends*. They are neither *Whigs* nor *Tories*; but occasionally both.

He was created Viscount Clare (in Ireland) in 1766; and earl Nugent, in the same kingdom, in 1776, with remainder to the present Marquis of Buckingham.

He

The Irish estates are said to be upwards of 15,000l. per annum.—The English estates are also considerable; together with what **LORD MELCOMBE** calls *marketable ware*, *viz.* the borough of St. Maws. Some years ago, the Melcombe estate also fell to the present Marquis of Buckingham.

He has been TWICE lord-lieutenant of Ireland—and is a warm advocate for the present measure of the UNION.

He married, first, Emilia, daughter of the Earl of Fingal, by whom he had a son, Edmund, a colonel in the army, who died in 1771: she died in 1731. He married, secondly, Anne, daughter of the Rt. Hon. James Craggs, from whom he took the name of **CRAIGGS**: when he married her, she was the widow of John Knight, Esq. of Gof-field-hall, in Essex. So that by her he got his borough in Cornwall, and his estate in Essex. By this lady he had a daughter, Mary, married in 1775, to the present Marquis of Buckingham, as above-mentioned. He married, thirdly, the Countess Dowager of Berkeley, mother of the present Earl Berkeley, by whom he had a daughter, Louisa, who, in 1784, married Capt. Harvey of the navy.

His lordship was a votary of the muses, and some of his odes are said to be possessed of the true Horatian fire.

NOTES.

NOTE (a)

November 13, 1784, King's-Bench, Ireland.

The KING against REILLY.

THIS being the day appointed for shewing cause why an attachment should not be granted against Henry Stevens Reilly, esq. high-sheriff of the county of Dublin, in consequence of an application made by the attorney-general.

Mr. *Caldbeck* opened the business on the part of the sheriff, by stating the affidavit on which the application had been made. It contained copies of a request made by certain persons to the high-sheriff of the county of Dublin, that he would call the *power of his county*; of his summons to the freeholders and inhabitants of his county; of the proceedings of a meeting held pursuant to his summons on the 31st of July last; and also the proceeding of an adjourned meeting held on the 9th of August; all taken from the Dublin Evening Post.—The affidavit was made to Thomas Green, scrivener.

So far this gentleman swears to what he read in a newspaper; he then swears that he was present at the meeting, believes these to be the resolutions passed there, and that the original copy was signed by Mr. Reilly.

This affidavit is not sufficient ground for an attachment: I have always found it to be the opinion of this court, that when a man is charged criminally, the charge must be direct and clear, and that hearsay evidence cannot be a just foundation for an attachment.

The only facts to which Mr. Green swears, of his own knowledge, are, that he read a newspaper, and that he was present at a meeting. To these facts it would have been ridiculous in Mr. Reilly to have troubled the court with any answer; yet these are the only facts to which

an answer could have been expected, and neither of them can be admitted as ground for an attachment.

An attachment is a process, issuing out of the court of King's-bench, to bring in the person of one accused of contempt, that he may clear himself, if he can. It is a legal process, where the person is under controul of the court; but it is not in the ordinary course of justice, and is proper only in certain cases.

In the larger sense of the word, every offence against the law is a contempt. In every indictment for high-treason, or murder, the prisoner is charged with a contempt; but for these contempts the law has provided remedies. They are general contempts of law; particular contempts are those which affect any particular court. When these last charges unite, the general contempt increases the other. It would be ridiculous to talk of attaching a man who is guilty of murder. It is the happiness and boast of the subject, that, in all cases of general contempt, he is entitled to trial by jury.

The *Chief Justice* objected that all contempts come under this description of general contempts; because it is the offence against the law, and not against particular persons, that is punished.

Mr. *Caldeck*. One point of difference is, that, in general contempts, the prisoner only pleads not guilty; in particular contempts, he is called upon to clear himself by oath.

Mr. *Justice Robinson*. Mr. Reilly had not pleaded at all.

Mr. *Caldeck*. This is not a new trial.—I shall now shew what are those contempts for which this court will grant attachments, and that this case is not one. In 2 *Hawkins*, 140—155, are all the authorities that relate to this case, and a list of persons who are liable to attachments; among the latter, sheriffs are mentioned. There are several cases enumerated, in which sheriffs may be attached; as where they neglect to execute the orders of the court, or execute them oppressively, or ineffectually, or where they make false returns, or where they take money for neglecting their duty; but, in all other cases, they are to be prosecuted like other men, by information or indictment.—Other men may be guilty of contempts, by contempt of writs, outrages in the presence of the court, or by deceits and impositions on the court.

As to the nature of the attachment, it is intended either to bring in the party, or to punish them for an offence committed in the presence of the court. The first is the proper use, for where the offence is committed in the presence of the court, the party may be committed immediately in a summary way. One case, in which a man cannot be committed, is, when there is not any positive charge, which is the case with my client. In common criminal cases, a prisoner pleads guilty, or not guilty, but not on oath—but in case of attachment, the defendant is obliged to answer upon oath. Now this is a practice contrary to every idea of good government, to every principle of law; and these are of much greater importance than the dignity of any particular court. In all other cases, a man is not permitted to criminate himself, and even if he acknowledge his offence upon oath, some judges are of opinion, that his confession ought not to be pleaded against him. When this is not admitted in cases of high-treason, in cases of violence committed against the head of the state,—shall a man for contempt of any particular court, be put to this species of question and torture? a case in which no man sustains damage.

I will now admit, or rather suppose, that the resolutions are improper: perhaps the sheriff ought to have interfered; perhaps he did; but admitting that he took a part, is this the manner in which he is to be punished? Since the orders of the court have not been violated, he ought to have been prosecuted by information or indictment. In this case he would not enjoy the privilege of purging himself by oath; nor, on the other hand, would he be deprived of trial by jury.

The *Chief Justice* differed from the counsel, and stated his sentiments, that Mr. *Caldbeck* might see whether his argument was rightly understood. He apprehended that attachment was the easiest mode of prosecution, because the defendant might purge himself by affidavit.

Mr. *Caldbeck*. If the defendant was indulged in this mode of defence, he was at the same time precluded from every other.

A sheriff is exposed to this kind of prosecution, where the orders of the court are concerned; but not in every circumstance of his life; for punishment here would not exempt him from punishment elsewhere for the same offence; and thus the office of a sheriff would become intolerably burthensome and hazardous.

Mr. Sheridan. Never did I find my inclination more in unison with my duty; for I feel myself concerned, not only as an advocate, but as a citizen.

Mr. Justice Robinson. Why this is for the county.

Mr. Sheridan. If I thought it necessary, I might defend this use of the word *citizen* by two incontestable authorities; that of Mr. Locke, and that of an express act of parliament; but, I think it decent to suppress those sentiments which I cannot but feel, and might be justifiable in expressing.

Neither Mr. Reilly nor his counsel wishes to revive that spirit which seems to be for some time at rest; but I regret the sad necessity which obliges the king's attorney-general to become a daily orator in the prosecution of his majesty's subjects.

My Lord, with all due deference, I say, that you have not power to attach, and if you had such a power, it must be a discretionary power, and you will not exert it. By power I mean that which is warranted by law.

You, my Lords, are the sovereign conservators of the peace; every thing valuable in the star-chamber centered in you on the abolition of that court (Blackstone). You have the power of receiving informations against all his majesty's subjects. But as to attachments, you can grant them, against private persons, only in cases of direct and consequential contempts; and against all public officers, only on account of abuses of judicial or delegated power. You would never think of attaching a magistrate in his private character; or where he may be punished in another way. Who would dream of attaching a magistrate because he was a pickpocket? We have not heard of any grand juries attached for signing county resolutions, or voting such addresses as have been graciously received.

The only reason for giving your lordships a power of granting attachments, is to give the court a competent authority to maintain its jurisdiction.

Contempts are of six kinds (here he enumerated them); and it is manifest that the present case does not come under any of them, except by such a forced construction as I am sure your lordships will not make. It is not always prudent to go to the stretch of the law; and it is always tyranny to go beyond it.

Mr. Justice Robinson. I must tell gentlemen who allude so frequently to deprivation of trial by jury, that the only principle of the constitution is, that no man can be deprived of his *life* without a jury.

Chief Justice. Do you argue this cause as if the sheriff, on the occasion, presided in a county court?

Mr. Sheridan. No, my Lord. I do not mean to help the infirmities of the prosecution, by giving a name to the charge which the affidavit has not done. [Here he quoted *I Strange, 532.*]

It has been said that the mode of attachment is the easiest. Give me leave to state some very material points against this opinion: When a man is attached, he is denied the benefit of both law and jury. In informations, the defendant cannot be convicted by hearsay.

Such an affidavit as that before the court would not oblige him to enter into any evidence at all. When attached, he has no appeal. He is obliged to answer upon oath; and his confession may expose him to prosecution by indictment for high crimes and misdemeanors; and if, as has been said, this mode be intended as a favour, the subject certainly has a right to waive the indulgence.

The sheriff is called by Coke, *vita justitiae, vita legis, vita republicæ.* He is an officer employed in a variety of capacities; and in every capacity he becomes the subject of a particular jurisdiction. With respect to the returns of writs of election, for instance, he is responsible to the representatives of the people.

Justice Robinson. Sir, I don't apprehend you. I know the representatives in parliament, but I never heard, as a lawyer, of *the representatives of the people.*

Mr. Sheridan justified his expression; but denied that he had any particular reason for using it. He then proceeded.

In executing a writ of partition, the sheriff is responsible to Chancery; and as collector of the revenue, he becomes subject to the jurisdiction of the exchequer. In none of these instances could the court interfere.

But there are circumstances in this *particular case*, that will determine you not to attach.

Chief Justice. As the judges will be called on for their opinions on every part of the case, I think it necessary to inform you, that it is necessary to shew that the proceedings in the present case were innoxious; and I am of opinion, that the affidavit contains direct and explicit charges.

I entreat you not to *blink* the case. I speak as a friend, and consider it as conducive to justice that I should give you this warning, rather than we should proceed to determine upon points and arguments that have not come under the consultation of counsel.

Mr. Sheridan. A sheriff is not attachable when it appears to the court that he has acted ignorantly, innocently, or out of his official capacity. My client is not charged with acting '*malo animo* ;' for as to 'lives and fortunes,' they have been the unredeemed pledge of the people for many years. And though this expression should be illegal, it should be considered that in a popular assembly, the presiding officer cannot always consider every resolution accurately, or regulate the proceedings of the meeting. [2 Burrows, 1162, King against Palmer.] Nor had Mr. Reilly any warning of the criminality of his conduct. The attorney-general sent no *billet doux*, as he did to the city sheriffs. This cause, my Lord, is at the suit of the crown.

Attorney-general. It is under my direction.

Chief Justice. I consider this attachment as moved by the crown.

Mr. Sheridan. If this be a misdemeanor, the attorney-general ought to indict him; and may *yet* indict him: the grand jury may this moment be deliberating on the bill.

The *Recorder* entered into the nature of the case; and argued the justifiable nature of the meeting from the Bill of Rights and Common Law. But, admitting the contrary, he pleaded that the sheriff is no more guilty than any other member of the county meeting; for he acted only in his private capacity. That he did not call the power of the county, as sheriff, is evident from this, that no man was bound to attend.

Chief Justice dwelt upon the word *inhabitants*, and the consequence of admitting every inhabitant to such deliberate assemblies; and desired counsel to shew that the meeting was not a county court.

The *Recorder* argued this point from another gentleman being put into the chair to thank the sheriff, which could not be done in any court. And also from this, that the sheriff's court must be held either monthly or by special adjournments.

He then desired liberty to reply after the crown lawyers, which was granted.

Prime Serjeant desired an adjournment.

Chief Justice wished to hear the grounds on which the crown intended to proceed first stated.

The *Attorney-general* declared himself prepared to proceed. He stated, that a new system of government had been attempted by certain reformers. The committee of thirteen

thirteen residents in Dublin was the *executive* power. They issue writs to the king's officers to return members to a legislative body; and these are elected by the inhabitants of the county of Dublin, and supported by pledges more sacred than any given to parliament, even the *lives* and *fortunes* of the people pledged to the execution of any measures they shall adopt.—He accused Mr. Reilly of promoting this system. As for the pretence that he was an individual, he treated it with contempt; for who could convene the power of the county but the sheriff? But even admitting the contrary, will any man, said he, with the trace of a legal idea in his head, say, that he is not guilty of a misdemeanor? [12 Mod. 374.] Lord Holt declares, every misdemeanor a contempt of the King's-bench. [2 Raymond, 70, 6.—2 Burrow, 924.] From this he argued against Mr. *Caldbeck*'s distinction of general and particular contempts.

He maintained that a sheriff may be punished twice; as a private man, and as a public officer, by the extraordinary power of the King's-bench.

The *Chief Justice* agreed to this doctrine.

The *Attorney-general* having made some retort upon Mr. *Sheridan* for calling him an orator,

Mr. Justice *Robinson* said, it is a true maxim, that the best government is that in which the laws are most punctually obeyed, and orators least heard. You have supported your cause with good authorities; and when I hear gentlemen saying, that there are not such cases in the books, I always understand that they have not seen them. The attorney-general referred to Dalton's sheriff, 482—Coke, 4th instit. 71.

The *Attorney-general*. As to the legality of the county meeting, the *Recorder* is the only gentleman who has ventured to meet that part of the case; and he has argued it like a lawyer.

Mr. Justice *Robinson*. Very decently argued.

The *Attorney-general* declared his zeal for the right of the people to petition the throne and parliament; but denied that they have any right to elect other representatives than those returned to parliament; or to pledge themselves for the support of the measures of such representatives.

Chief Justice supported this, and called Congress a new estate.

Attorney-general. As to the unredeemed pledge of

lives and fortunes, says he, it has done more harm to the trade and general prosperity of this nation, than most men are aware of ; and though not yet redeemed, this may not long be the case, since they have procured the co-operation of the king's officers.

He also mentioned, that Hawkins added to the other causes for attaching a sheriff thus : “ any act of injustice “ under colour of his office ;” and Judge Holt also mentioned, “ raising faction,” as ground for an attachment.

Ajourned.

On the 26th of November, the Court gave judgment, That the rule should be made absolute.

SIR SAMUEL BRADSTREET was induced to join in this opinion, from the following case, which he mentioned :

A sheriff HALL was walking through one of the streets in Dublin, and a man from a ladder let fall some mortar, which happening to light on the sheriff, he immediately caused the poor fellow to be tied to the first car that passed by, and severely flogged ; for which this magistrate was attached in the Court of King's Bench. This, Sir Samuel said, satisfied his mind concerning the attaching a sheriff, in cases which did not interfere with the proceedings of this Court.

NOTE (b)

It is worthy remark, that in 1571, the whole peerage of Ireland consisted only of thirty-one peers.—It now consists of three hundred peers.

The following is a list of nobility at that period :

EARLS.

Fitzgerald (a),	Kildare,
Butler (c),	Ormond and Offory.
Fitzgerald (c),	Desmond.
Bourke,	Clanrickard.
O'Bryan (c),	Thomond.
Mac Carthy (c),	Cloncarre.

VISCOUNTS.

VISCOUNTS.

Barry (a),	Barrie of Buttevant.
Roche (c),	Roche of Fermoy.
Preston (c),	Gormanstown.
Custace (c),	Baltinglass.
Butler,	Mount Garret.
Deces (c),	Deces.

BARONS.

Bermingham (a),	Athenry.
Fitzmaurice (a),	Kerry.
Courcye,	Courcey.
Fleming (c),	Slane.
Plunket (c),	Killeen.
Nugent (a),	Delvin.
St. Laurence (a),	Howth.
Plunket,	Dunsaney.
Barnwall (b),	Trimbleston.
Butler (b),	Dunboyne.
Fitzpatrick (c),	Upper Offory.
Clonagh (c),	Clonagh Mac Gilpatrick.
Plunket (b),	Louth.
O'Neal (c),	Dungannon.
Power (c),	Curraghmore.
Mac Sureon (c),	Desart.
O'Bryan (a),	Inchiquin.
Mac Castelagh (c),	Nangle.
Mac Wm. Bourk (c),	Lord of either Connaught.

Those marked thus (a), have since been advanced to higher dignities.

Those marked thus (b), are outlawed or attainted.

Those marked thus (c), are now extin&t.

A list of titles that will be *extinct* on the demise of the present possessors without male issue.

EARLS.

Antrim.	Grandison.
Mountrath.	Bellamont*.
Clanbrassil.	Glandore.
Louth*.	Clermont*.

VISCOUNT.

Perry*.

BARONS.

Fortescue.

Shuldham*.

Macartney*.

Sheffield, of Dunamore*,

Milford*.

Delaval*.

Newhaven*.

Sunderlin*.

The present Earl of Antrim was created a marquis in 1785, and in default of issue male, the dignity of Countess of Antrim to the first, and every other daughter of the said earl; and the dignity of Earl of Antrim to the heirs male of such first, and every other daughter, according to priority; therefore, if his lordship leaves no male issue on his demise, the ancient title of Antrim, created in 1620, will cease with him.

The present Lord Sheffield of Dunamore, was likewise created, in 1783, Lord Sheffield of Roscommon, with remainder severally to his daughters and their issue male; therefore on his demise without male issue, the title of Sheffield of Dunamore, ceases with him.

Those marked thus * are Peers that have themselves been advanced to those dignities; therefore may be properly called on their *first* and *last* legs.

Twenty-five of the *Peers of Ireland*, have seats in the Commons of Great Britain.

There is no instance of a British Peer being in the Irish Commons, only that of Lord Rawdon, who was created a Peer of England when in the Commons of Ireland.

In the House of Lords there are no less than thirty-six Peers who have not one acre of property in Ireland, nor indeed any connection with it, save that of enjoying a title in it: viz.

EARLS.

Cork

Fife

Desmond

Winterton

Cavan

Sefton

Waterford

Lisburne,

Athlone

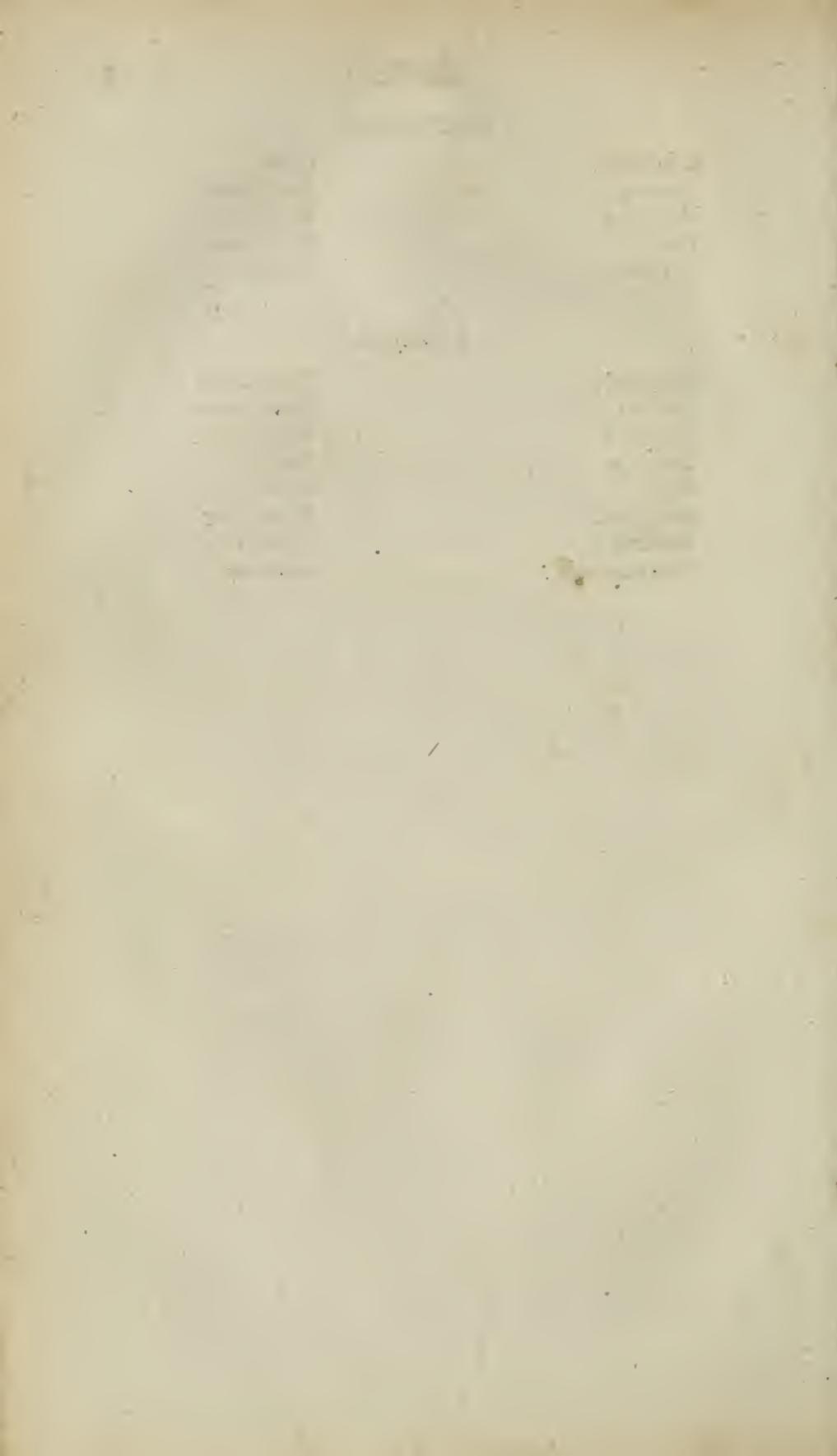
VISCOUNTS.

VISCOUNTS.

Kilmurry	Howe
Lumley	Grimstone
Wenman	Barrington
Cullen	Melburne
Berkeley	Galway
Downe	

BARONS.

Sherrard	Macdonald
Aylmer	Kensington
Fortescue	Westcote
Colerain	Oagley
Clive	Hood
Mulgrave	Muncaster
Milford	Penrhyn
Newborough	Delaval



PART THE SECOND.

DISTINGUISHED CHARACTERS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

JOHN FOSTER,

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MEMBER FOR LOWTH.

MR. FOSTER is the son of the late ANTHONY, Lord Chief Baron FOSTER, and was educated at the University of Dublin, where he was cotemporary with the Lords *Clonmell, Yelverton, Kilwarden, and Carlton.*

In 1766, he was called to the Irish bar, while his father the Chief Baron was yet upon the bench; but the *law* was to Mr. FOSTER merely a nominal profession—he had *other* views.

Very shortly after his call to the bar, Mr. FOSTER was returned to serve in parliament for the county of Lowth, and was immediately distinguished for parliamentary talents and abilities.

The

The system of *corn laws* *, which he formed very soon after his coming into parliament, does him the highest honour.

The next important object of his attention, was the *linen manufacture*, which, with his zeal and intelligence, has rendered equal benefits to his country with agriculture itself.

In 1785, Mr. Foster was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer, an office for which his comprehensive and methodical mind, added to his extensive knowledge of the resources of his country, admirably fitted him.

In 1786, he resigned this post on being chosen Speaker of the House of Commons, in which dignified situation he has ever since continued.

* Ireland, from being unable to supply two-thirds of her people with bread in 1770, in consequence of the operation of Mr. Foster's plan, has not only become equal to feed her inhabitants, but actually exports grain to the amount of 20,000 *l.* annually.

The situation of Speaker of the House of Commons is so conspicuous and honourable, that it is not surprizing to find it a favourite object of ambition, and no man has ever filled it with more honour than it's present possessor, who has been more than most men the object of public observation, for a series of years, and whose conduct has been very strongly marked.

Whether a spirited and manly endeavour to support, protect, and improve the nation, has not been contaminated *hitherto*, by a too ready obedience to the orders of ministers indiscriminately, is *one* question—his ability and political exertions *another*. In point of *intellect*, it will be admitted no man is *before him*, in point of *information*, perhaps, no man in the kingdom is his *equal*—he discharges the duty of this office with the greatest ability. Deeply read in the law and privileges of parliament, no incident occurs in which he is not able to guide the conduct of the House, while his punctuality, his love of order, and good taste, give facility to business, and a decorous elegance to legislative arrangements.

As

As a parliamentary speaker, his voice is articulate, audible, and sufficiently strong, but with a sharpness of tone, by no means pleasing, his management of it is judicious, and greatly tends to counteract its predominant failing.

His language is plain, even, and unadorned, yet forcible and nervous, seldom remarkable for elegance, yet never failing in propriety and strength. All ornament of phrase and stateliness of diction, all the pomp and parade of figures, he studiously avoids, restraining even with care the essays of an imagination by no means destitute of vigour, and seeming rather desirous of appearing a sensible reasoner than a sublime orator.

His delivery is just, accurate, and well considered, never hurried by precipitation nor enervated by languor; but proceeding with that moderated warmth that becomes the earnest, yet not vehement speaker.

His manner pleases by its spirit and animation, and though possibly in many of his latter exhibitions before he was elected speaker, somewhat

somewhat too overbearing and imperious, is correct. His action, more eminent for energy than grace, is strong and expressive, pointedly enforcing the weight of his sentiments: not studied and laboured with minute attention to display elegance of attitudes, but spontaneously flowing from the impulse of present feeling.

In argument he is uncommonly able, being strict, exact, close, yet comprehensive; varying his mode as the subject requires, and in each variation appearing to advantage. He seizes with peculiar felicity on the most interesting facts and circumstances, and displays them with the utmost force of cultivated reason, and sometimes with all the cunning of sophisticated art.—Well acquainted with the whole mystery of debate, and not averse from calling in the aid of perverted logic to support his cause, though the contest is fullied by the ally, he frequently involves his opponents in an inextricable maze of complicated reasoning, which often, like the Gordian knot, cannot be disentangled. His arrangement is invariably excellent, regular, accurate, and clear.

Of the *matter* of his speeches, it is not easy to speak in terms such as it deserves, being in the highest degree excellent, important, instructive and solid; his knowledge is wonderfully extensive, and which in finance, revenue, trade, commerce, legislation, or policy, is not merely the outline or sketch of the subject, of which he seems master, but of its whole detail, and veriest *minutiae* of parts.

To his wise and spirited measure of procuring a protecting duty to the *calicoes* of Ireland, is owing the flourishing state of this branch of trade. And the prosperity of the *cotton* manufactory, must be primarily attributed to his sagacity and attention.

For several years, he has been not only the supporter of administration, but the principal conductor and manager of all their plans.

Notwithstanding the essential services he has rendered his country, perhaps no individual in it has been more unpopular.

These are the reasons. He is known to have been averse to every attempt towards establishing the independence of the legislature, and abrogating the unjust restrictions by which Great Britain had fettered the commerce of Ireland. At that time too, the manufacturers of the capital were starving for want of employment, or kept alive by elymosynary contributions. Protecting duties for these famished artizans, were called for, and Mr. Foster opposed them with all his power.

His having delivered an opinion against the utility of promoting the silk manufacture, was another cause that raised him enemies. This prejudice continued many years, and at one time, such was the general detestation of him, that it was thought necessary to give him a guard for his protection.

There is yet another obnoxious feature in his political character.

He always professed himself adverse to the admission of Catholics to the privileges of the constitution.

On the bill for allowing them to vote at elections, he delivered a speech against that measure, confessedly the best which was made in either House on the subject.

Mr. Foster has irresistible claims upon the justice and gratitude of Ireland. No man has laboured more to promote the true interests and prosperity of the people. Under his auspices, and by his express regulations, the staple manufacture of the kingdom has increased *one-third*, a consequence of which is, that employment is given to an almost infinite number of souls, in its numerous branches, and a prodigious treasure is secured to the nation in returns from it's exports.

By Mr. Foster's judicious system of the corn laws, *agriculture* has been improved, the country has been fertilized, and the seeds of perpetual plenty have been sown, as it were, in every quarter of the kingdom ; who-ever, therefore, regards the *trade*, the *manufactures*, and the *tillage* of Ireland, must feel an interest in the character of Mr. FOSTER.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ISAAC CORRY,

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, AND MEMBER FOR
THE BOROUGH OF NEWRY.

HE is the son of a respectable merchant, of the town of Newry, in the county of Down, was bred to the law, and called to the bar in 1779, but meeting little immediate success in the profession, he turned his attention to politics.

The inhabitants of a great commercial town, felt the want of an able defender of their rights, and chose Mr. Corry to that honourable office. They had confidence in his abilities, his amiable manners conciliated their affections, the spirit and integrity of his mind commanded their reverence. It was not the weight of family connections, nor the influence of powerful patronage that introduced him into parliament, but merit, conspicuous even in its dawn, and the spring

promise of abilities, which the maturity of autumn has not disappointed.

No sooner was he seated in the House of Commons, than he became one of the most warm and animated members of the then opposition ; his industry was chiefly directed to the discussion of matters of revenue and finance. For some years Mr. Corry devoted himself to the popular cause, sedulously scrutinizing every measure of the minister ; but such violence of patriotism could not last for ever : during the administration of the Marquis of Buckingham in 1787, he was appointed to a post in the ordinance, of 1000*l.* per annum ; and from this period Mr. Corry has exhibited himself, during a series of viceroys, as one of the most active and able servants of administration, and has consequently enjoyed a succession of very lucrative places in the ordinance * and treasury,

* Mr. Corry's entrance upon the business of Surveyor of the Ordinance, was singular.—His first step was to lock up and seal the desks of the several clerks, who were dismissed without further notice of their dismission or return. Some of the clerks whose offices they were about shutting up mentioned that they had in their writing desks some private

sury, but although he has in some respect abandoned the cause of the patriots for the smiles of a court, and the emoluments of

private papers and some private cash of their own, which they wanted to take away. "By no means, sir," said the gentleman, "but you may put your own seal, together with ours, on the locks which we are sealing up; so that your property will be perfectly safe, as the locks cannot be opened till we shall be all again assembled together."

The strict enquiry made into the affairs of this office, very much engaged the public attention at that time, and is said to have been occasioned by the following circumstance: his Excellency the Marquis of Buckingham accepted of an invitation to dine with Lord Chief Justice Earlsfort, and in his way through Harcourt-street his carriage was stopped by a number of coaches drawing up to a house on the opposite side of the street. When his excellency had reached Lord Earlsfort's, he walked about the drawing-room for some time, and among other ordinary questions, asked, what gentleman owned the house at which there were such a number of carriages.—Lady Earlsfort informed him, that he was a clerk in the ordnance.—He then enquired the amount of his salary, and was informed that it was about an hundred a year. "That's very extraordinary," observes his lordship; "if, without any other resources, he can keep such an extensive house, and see such splendid company, he must be a surprising manager!" The matter ended there for that night, but at a proper time the enquiry was entered upon, which was followed by those consequences the public are in possession of.

office, he has borne himself with becoming meekness and moderation. In many instances he has voted *against* the minister, on questions he had formerly supported.

Possessing from nature a very pleasing exterior, Mr. CORRY loses not that advantage by a slovenly neglect of it, but on the instant impresses strangers with a favourable opinion of him, by the gracefulness of his manner, and the unaffected propriety of his deportment. His voice is remarkably good, clear, distinct, and melodious, and equally adapted to thunder in the storm of impetuous eloquence, or to insinuate the soothing accents of persuasion. His language is correct, copious, and well selected, evidently the effect of choice, without the appearance of study; rather pure, plain, and flowing, than elevated and sublime; seldom illumined with figures, but whenever adopted, they are used with the strictest propriety. His elocution is uncommonly vehement and rapid; his action (of which he uses more than most Irish speakers) is often elegant; and in argument, he is forcible, compact, and methodical, never deviating from the question into extrinsic circumstances.

circumstances. Having possessed the advantage of a liberal education, and made the proper use of it by storing his mind with ample funds of useful knowledge, his matter is always excellent, apposite, weighty, and well chosen—

“ Though deep, yet clear ; without o'erflowing, full.”
And especially on all commercial questions, worthy the most profound attention and regard.

Of the character of an orator, though possessing many of its best requisites, he seems not emulous, but rather wishes to be thought a man of business, and his extensive knowledge, unwearied industry, and comprehensive judgment, fully qualify him for that department.

Mr. Corry was, for a considerable time, a principal favourite at Carlton-house ; and is said to possess at present a great share of the prince's confidence. He was first introduced into public life *in England* by the Duchess of Cumberland *.

* Sir JOHN PARNELL was turned out of the office of chancellor of the exchequer, to make way for Mr. CORRY.—

As a parliamentary speaker, SIR JOHN used the *conversation style* of a man of business, and possessed none of the effusions of the eloquent declaimer: his manner was bold, warm, intrepid, and fearless of opposition, which he affected to treat with a degree of contempt. His action was extremely defective, and in one instance, ridiculous; for when hesitating in debate, he had a habit of *stroking his cheeks*, as if to illicit some new argument, or additional powers of demonstration. In reasoning, he was close, correct, and accurate; his arrangement was clear and regular, and possessed all the method, without the formality, of art.

JAMES

JAMES FITZGERALD, ESQ.

LATE PRIME SERJEANT.

THIS gentleman is the son of a curate, in the county of Clare. He never ranked high as a lawyer, and owes his professional rise entirely to the patronage of the late Chief Justice PATERSON, of the common pleas.

For the situation of prime serjeant, he was indebted to the influence of the Earl of CLARE, who was on the best terms with him.

Until the late question of the Union, he was, without the slightest variation, supporter of *every* administration; the opinion, however, that is entertained of his late political conduct, is apparent, from the following copy of the resolutions entered into at the late meeting of the bar*, viz.

“ That

* The following incident took place in the court of Chancery:—It was motion-day, when, according to usage, the

“ That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the Right Hon. JAMES FITZGERALD, late his majesty’s prime serjeant, for his noble and patriotic conduct in parliament, preferring the good of his country to rank or emoluments—that the same precedence at the bar be acceded to him as when he held the office of prime serjeant.

the senior barrister present is called on by the bench to make his motions ; which having done, the next in precedence is called, until the whole of the bar have been called on down to the youngest barrister present. The attorney and solicitor generals having made their motions, the chief called on Mr. Smith, father of the bar, who bowed, and said, Mr. Saurin had precedence of him: he then called on Mr. Saurin, who bowed, and said, Mr. Ponsonby had precedence : Mr. Ponsonby in like manner said, Mr. Curran had precedence of him ; and Mr. Curran also said, he could not think of moving any thing before Mr. Fitzgerald, who certainly had precedence of him. The chancellor then called on Mr. Fitzgerald, who bowed, and said, he had no motion to make. This led the chancellor to speak out : “ I see, gentlemen, you have not then relinquished the busines : it would be better at once for his majesty’s counsel, if they do not choose to conform to the regulation of the court, to resign their silk gowns, than act thus in a sort of rebellion against their sovereign ! I dismiss the causes in which these gentlemen are retained, with costs on both sides ! ” And thus saying, he quitted the bench.—The attornies, on both sides, immediately determined they could charge no costs.

“jeant. Also that the members in both
“Houses of Parliament, who so spiritedly
“supported the constitution and independ-
“ence of Ireland, on the 22d and 23d in-
“stant, are deserving of our warmest and
“most grateful acknowledgments.”

Like the generality of lawyers, he is inti-
tled to little consideration as a speaker ; he has
a pert coxcomical style of speaking, never to
be forgotten by any one who has heard him,
though, perhaps, impossible to be described.

It was some time before business could proceed properly. The bench at last *lifted* the motions ; so that all precedence is now done away, and they will be heard in future in the order of the roll.

The above reminds us of a circumstance which happened before Lord Mansfield in 1781 :—His lordship signified his intention of sitting to try causes on Easter Monday ; upon which Mr. Dunning, afterwards Lord Ashburton, in the name of the counsel, declared their resolution not to attend on that day. Lord Mansfield, however, persevered, and went to Westminster-hall as usual, but there was not a single barrister present ; on which his lordship called on the attorneys, and, in some instances, on the parties themselves, to open the cases, which they did with various abilities, and his lordship actually tried three or four causes, and those with infinite difficulty, his lordship observing, that *till then* he never knew the value of counsel, and how essentially necessary they were to the *dispatch* of business.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

PRIME SERJEANT DALY.

Mr. ST. GEORGE DALY, who lately succeeded the Right Honourable JAMES FITZ-GERALD, in the office of prime serjeant at the Irish bar, is the sixth and youngest son of the late James Daly of Dunsandale, in the county of Galway esq. by Catherine daughter of Sir RALPH GORE (formerly speaker of the Irish House of Commons, and frequently one of the lords justices), and sister to the Earl of Ross, a general in the army.

Through the unbounded hospitality and electioneering expences of Mr. James Daly, five sons and two daughters, his younger children, were left very small portions.

Mr. DENNIS DALY had a very large landed estate, but immensely incumbered, so that the present subject of this brief memoir began the world with little more than 5,000*l.*

Mr. ST. GEO. DALY was entered of the university of Dublin, in October, 1777, where his talents and application insured him

him almost every premium and certificate, till he took the degree of bachelor of arts ; he was then sent to Lincoln's-inn, where he was equally diligent.

He has the reputation of being a sound lawyer.

The *prime serjeantcy* is the *first* office, in point of rank, at the Irish bar ; it is inferior to the *attorney-generalship* in emolument, but superior to it in precedence. Mr. Daly, who now holds this high office, is still on the right side of forty ; he is member for Galway, a family borough, and no degree of popular odium that CAN arise against him, will prevent his return, while a parliament remains in Ireland.

Mr. Daly's hair, like the rest of the Dunsdale family, is of a sandy colour, his complexion very fair and ruddy, and he is well made, but inclined to fat. Although much inferior, as an orator, to his late elder brother, he possesses much learning, a deep understanding, and strong powers of reasoning.

He

He is of a very retired, uncommunicative disposition, and seldom speaks in private company; when he does, it is but little, and that little apparently weighed in short and studied sentences. Some of his juvenile friends in the university used to jest with him on his taciturnity; to which his answer was, that his stock of words, from nature, was so extremely small, that he could not afford to throw any away.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

JOHN TOLER, ESQ.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

THIS gentleman represents the borough of Newborough; is a good lawyer, and has shewn himself a useful *attorney-general*, but is by no means distinguished as a parliamentary *speaker*. He much resembles his predecessor in office, Lord *Kilwarden*, in professional habits, pursuits, and attainments.

The *part* he takes in politics, may be inferred from the *place* he holds.

In private character no man is more amiable. He is brother of Daniel Toler, esq. formerly member for the county of Tipperary*.

* See Napper Tandy.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

MONK MASON, ESQ.

MEMBER FOR THE BOROUGH OF ST. CANICE, OR IRISH
TOWN.

HE is a man of weight and consideration, on account of his abilities, his opulence, and consistency of conduct. He possesses considerable estates, both in England and Ireland.

He has uniformly voted with government.

He is a fluent, a frequent, and good speaker, and is one of the lords of the treasury, AND a commissioner of the customs.

His literary talents are very considerable; and his taste and judgment in dramatic criticism have been advantageously exemplified, in an edition of Massenger's plays, revised, corrected, and annotated, with uncommon industry and much discrimination.

He has the nickname (for what reason we know not) of " MONK MOONSHINE."

THE

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD CASTLEREAGH,

Is the eldest son of the Earl of Londonderry, and represents the borough of Down.

He was educated at Eton, and was there remarkable for the most assiduous application: he was afterwards of the college of Dublin.

He was a member of the British House of Commons in the last parliament, and seconded the address of thanks to his majesty, for the speech from the throne, on the opening the session in 1795.

He succeeded Mr. Pelham* as secretary of state;

* *Thomas Pelham*, esq. late member for the borough of Armagh.

When a man of family and fortune, possessing personal qualities that reflect lustre on his birth, of high character in his own country, and of unsuspected integrity of heart, chances to discharge the office of secretary to a lord-lieutenant, administration is, as it were, reverenced: the national funds are managed with economy, yet without parsimony, and the measures which he countenances and

state; and executing so very high a ministerial function, being, in fact, the prime minister of Ireland, and deemed not only the organ of his master's will, but of the English minister's determinations, nothing need here be

supports, equally beneficial to both countries, conciliate the affections of the one; whilst they merit the approbation of the other. Having no shattered circumstances to recruit, he hunts not for reverions to plunder the plundered, he invents not schemes of supply productive to his private costers, nor converts the secretary's chamber into a mercantile office, where every thing is sold to the highest bidder. To the full credit of so honourable a reputation, no man was more justly entitled than Mr. Pelham, who, when secretary to the Earl of *Northington* as chief governor of Ireland, added to the gracious deportment of a man of real fashion that weight of consequence which virtuous conduct invariably confers: and united in himself the rare assemblage of public confidence with ministerial duty.

As a parliamentary speaker, Mr. *Pelham's* voice was strong, full, manly, and distinct; without great harmony, or eminent melody, it was pleasing, and its compass was sufficiently extensive for all the purposes of debate. His language was spirited, nervous, and expressive, yet simple, plain, and unornamented; ever correct, pure, and neat, but seldom peculiarly elegant, never melting into the pathetic, or rising into the sublime. From all glowing and breathing terms, from splendid diction, he cautiously abstained, not from want of fertility of imagination, but from severity of judgment: and though, perhaps, he possessed not the power of exciting the utmost ardour of the soul, yet he ever impressed his ideas with weight and energy.

His

be said of the bias of his politics, or of the part he takes with respect to the union.

He is a very tolerable speaker, and a man of considerable political information: He affects very much an imitation of Mr. PITT—but,

*Quantum mutatus ab illo
Hector!!!*

His delivery, totally devoid of languor and insipidity, was rather more rapid than might be wished. His manner was warm, animated, and forcible; marked by a bold decision arising from the consciousness of fair intentions, and by a pleasing candour and openness that abhor disingenuity and subterfuge. His action, apparently artless and unstudied, was deficient neither in grace nor strength. In argument he was strict, accurate, and acute, enforcing with effect on the minds of his auditory, that conviction of rectitude which he felt, never deserting his subject, or wandering into idle episodes, but discussing it copiously, or minutely, as the occasion required, and always perspicuously and precisely, at all times displaying the most perfect urbanity; he was never sharp, or acrimonious, or insulting, even to inveterate and virulent opponents.

With respect to his *parliamentary conduct*, he had the honour of being supported, when secretary, by the independent country gentlemen, who so seldom think themselves justified in co-operating with administration: his candour won their confidence, and his integrity secured their attachment.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR JOHN BLACQUIRE.

SIR JOHN BLACQUIRE is indebted to the patronage of the late Earl of HARcourt, for his rise in political life.

His *source*, like that of the *Nile*, has never been with certainty discovered; by some, he is said to have descended from a *French* family.

Upon the contest between Sir *John* and the late *Hely* Hutchinson, for the provost-ship being decided against him, he prudently determined to make up in emolument, what he lost in honour, and the bailiff of the Phœnix-park dying in about a month after, this place became vacant, and Sir John was appointed to it.

This place, for time almost immemorial, had a salary annexed to it of 40*l.* per ann. with the use of a little lodge, consisting of four

four small rooms, a potatoe garden, the liberty of grass for two cows, four horses, and half a crown per head for all cattle he found trespassing in his majesty's demesne. *Thus*, a person who was dignified with the title of the most honourable order of the Bath, colonel of horse, and secretary of state, could descend to become a *Cow-herd*.

The knight appointed himself to this place, and made the salary 500*l.* per annum for his own life, and the lives of his majesty's two eldest sons, with an unlimited liberty of grazing what cattle he thought proper—The *house* being too mean for a Knight of the Bath, an order was issued by the board of works to make it *comfortable*, and which at the public expence of 8000*l.* was completed in a year. *Sir John* then begged a bit of ground for a garden, which being also granted, he took in about *ten acres*, which he surrounded with a brick wall, for which the nation also paid.

Sir John soon after married a relative of *Sir William Montgomery*, with a handsome fortune.

In his public speaking he is but poorly supported by his voice, which is weak, thin, and so low as to be sometimes scarcely audible; his language is well chosen, and frequently distinguished by the happiest application, but it is more pure than correct, and more forcible than beautiful; it is sometimes enlivened with lively figures, but his delivery counteracts the warmth of his expressions, as it is cold; languid, and slow, even to heaviness; his manner is neither timid nor embarrassed, and is rather mild and insinuating, than boisterous and obtrusive; although he sometimes distinguishes himself by the novelty, the boldness, and singularity of his opinions; among these, one delivered in a late debate, will not soon be forgotten, namely, “*that the most EXPERIENCED officers in his majesty’s service, were those UNDER the age of twenty-one years.*”

His *action* is greatly defective, having a mode of twisting and writhing his body into a tortuosity of shape, painful to look at, and perfectly inconsistent with every idea of grace. In argument he is diffuse, copious, and comprehensive; more solicitous to dilate than

than condense his sentiments, and more afraid of leaving any thing unnoticed, than of abounding in luxuriance; but with all his expension, not feeble or flimsy, accurate in deduction, and strong in reasoning, his arrangement is good, and his speeches are not wanting in information.

Since being a minister, he has shewn some inclination to promote the trade, improve the manufactures, and advance the agriculture of his country; but he is certainly more tenacious of the personal property than the personal liberty of the people of Ireland, and more anxious to render their situations comfortable, than to guard them from the incursions of over-weaning authority.

He some years since, in France, fought a duel with *Beauchamp Bagnell*, on occasion of his refusing to introduce him at the court of France.

THE HONOURABLE
FRANCIS HELY HUTCHINSON.

THIS gentleman represents the borough of Naas, and was bred to the law; like some others, however, he made more by the *petticoat* than the *gown*, having married a Miss Nixon, of Tipperary, with a large fortune.

He is not at all distinguished as a lawyer, or indeed as a parliamentary character.

His language never exceeds the limits of humble conversation; his delivery is languid and phlegmatic, slow without solemnity, and sometimes precipitate without energy.

In argument he properly avoids all digression, and is certainly in no danger of being misled by the phantoms of imagination, he is always pertinent, and sometimes instructive.

In

In the House of Commons he supports the measures of administration *.

* *Hely Hutchinson*, the father of the present member, had more of his majesty's favours than any other man in Ireland. From a very low origin, he made himself conspicuous at the bar in the late king's reign, on a law cause, and when his present majesty came to the throne, was brought into parliament, where he made no inconsiderable figure. An uncommon share of effrontery, soon pushed him into a silk gown, and he rose to the situation of Prime Serjeant, the highest office in the Irish law courts, and a very lucrative one. Being always a supporter of government, he was the most pressing man in the kingdom to have those services rewarded, and was always sure to have something lucrative from every chief governor; he obtained the place of *Almager*, which is a sinecure of considerable value, the reversion of secretary of state, then held by the late Philip Tisdale, and pensions to a great amount in fictitious names, to which he was a trustee mentioned in the grant.

When lord *Harcourt* was lord-lieutenant, he asked for some reward for his *faithful* services; the noble lord told him there was nothing vacant but a *majority* in the 4th regiment of horse, and that he supposed the *Prime Serjeant* would not throw off his black gown for a red coat. Mr. *Hutchinson* said he would have *that*, if his excellency would appoint him, which, ridiculous as the circumstance may appear, was complied with, and the commission signed accordingly, and which commission he sold immediately afterwards. General *Dilkes*, the then commander-in-chief, ordered him to his regiment, which the other not obeying, a court martial was actually intended to

try this military lawyer, and would have sat upon him, had not the sale of the commission so opportunely put an end to the affair. Having disposed of his majority, he turned his thoughts from the army to the revenue, and having asked a favour in that line, was appointed *Packer*, *Searcher*, and *Guager*, to the port of Strangford, to which offices he was appointed, and in which he remained doing duty by deputy until he got leave to nominate a successor, who gave him the value of the place.

Soon after this the provost of Trinity College died, and *Hutchinson* and Sir John Blacquire both applied for that high office, two men of all others the most improper to fill it: the one being a soldier without any Latin or Greek, and the other a lawyer who had long forgot his profody.

Neither of these place-hunters would give up the point, and the matter was thus divided, *Hutchinson* gave up the place of *Alnager* to Blacquire, on having the provostship, for holding of which a dispensation was to pass the great seal, because he was a *married man*—men of that description being excluded by the charter of Queen Elizabeth.

The dispensation, to the astonishment of the public, was granted by Lord NORTH, and in defiance of all decency and censure, the *prime serjeant* was made *provost*. The dissentions this occasioned in that learned seminary was great, and continued till his death. The fellows assembled, and came to several severe resolutions against having so illiterate a man thus appointed to govern over them and their students; in consequence of which, they made him attend the first public day of examination for fellowship, and in his turn put the *question* to the candidates.

The scene was too severe even for Mr. Hutchinson's effrontery,

effrontery, he could not stand it when he found they talked to him in Hebrew, Greek and Latin, and therefore retired in confusion. But all this did not induce him to give up the provostship, which he was determined to battle out, and which he fought through for many years, always at war with the fellows and scholars of the house.

With places, with pensions, with a title, and with all that Lord North's administration could give him, yet he was not to be bound by gratitude. He forsook that nobleman the moment he found him out of power, and became as bitter in his enmity, as ever he was violent in his attachment.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

JOHN BERESFORD,

MEMBER FOR THE COUNTY OF WATERFORD.

THIS gentleman was called to the bar about the year 1761, and is said to have practised some years with considerable success, but he abandoned the profession of the law for the field of politics, as affording wider prospects for the display of his genius, and the exercise of his interest, which has insinuated itself into every department of the state, and is so great as to have enabled him to dictate to every administration, that of Earl Fitzwilliam excepted.—Every one knows the consequence of the earl's inattention or disobedience.

The British cabinet is reported to recommend no project, which has not received *his* approbation; and his family hold places and salaries to the amount of upwards 20,000*l.* per annum: he certainly obtained
also

also of parliament little less than half a million of money, for building himself a palace, under the denomination of a custom-house.

He married one of the daughters of Sir William Montgomery, sister to the Marchioness Townshend.

Mr. Beresford seldom speaks in the House of Commons but on subjects relating to the revenue ; he is strictly the man of business, and still retains his professional habits. He argues with much legal subtlety and sophistry, puzzling where he fails to convince, and perplexing where he cannot elucidate, while his replies to his opponents are constantly tart and acrimonious, as if he would compensate, by severity of reply, for deficiency of reasoning.

His voice is clear and strong, but has neither harmony nor variety ; his diction is simple, not always correct, and never rises above the level of common conversation—his manner is unimpassioned.

JOHN-CLAUDIUS BERESFORD, ESQ.

NEPHEW of the Marquis of Waterford, and the son of Commissioner Beresford, the character immediately preceding.

Although the most inveterate enemy of the *United Irishmen*, he with the same inveteracy opposes the *Union*: and it is remarkable that he is the only one of the family adverse to the measure.

He is intemperate in his *politics*, though unimpassioned in *manner*. He expressed a wish for the late rebellion, in order to have an opportunity of shewing the world that it might be quelled—in *two days*.

His opposition to the *Union* may possibly arise from deference to his constituents, who are known to be hostile to this measure.— He represents the city of Dublin.

He is a commissioner of the customs, and a banker in Dublin.

THEY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THOMAS CONOLLY,

MEMBER FOR THE COUNTY OF LONDONDERRY.

MR. CONOLLY is considered as the first country gentleman in Ireland; his landed estates produce more than 20,000l. a-year: but if they did not yield 500l. his character would entitle him to the first rank among the good, the honest, and the worthy.

Successive viceroys have courted his support, by offering him a peerage, and leaving it to him to name his own terms. He always gave them for answer, that if their measures were good, they might be sure of his unbought, unbiassed, and firm support, but if they should be bad, the whole patronage of Ireland would be insufficient to make him give one single vote, which he could not reconcile to his conscience, his honour, and his duty, to the public.

This gentleman's mother was the Lady Ann Conolly, daughter to the Earl of Strafford, and upon the death of the present earl, who bears that title, Mr. Conolly will succeed to an English barony, by the title, if we mistake not, of Lord RABY.

Mr. Conolly is the last in remainder of the male line of his family. His talents, as a senator, have been often exposed to hearing in the British senate. His estate (having no children by his wife, who is sister to the Duke of Leinster), he may bequeath to whom he pleases. His family connections give him some weight, but his boroughs create him more respect in parliament. He claims no honour from a long line of ancestry: the father of the Conolly, from whom he derived his great estate, being only the master of a little thatch'd ale-house, at a place called Newtownlimavady, in the north of Ireland, who, in the latter end of the last century, lived to see his son appointed agent to two elderly maiden ladies, who bequeathed him a large sum of money, with which he purchased an estate in the county of

of Kildare, and another in the north, both of which are in possession of the present heir.

Mr. Conolly had five sisters married. One to the present Lord Ross, then Sir Ralph Gore; one to Mr. Byng, late member for Middlesex; one to Sir William Howe; one to Colonel Staples; and one to the unfortunate George Robert Fitzgerald.—Lady Gore, Mrs. Staples, and Mrs. Fitzgerald are dead.

His sisters, the Countess of Buckinghamshire, the lady of Sir William Howe, and the representatives of some other dead sisters, are his *presumptive* heirs.

He is not entitled to much distinction as a parliamentary speaker. Possessed, however, of a fund of dry humour, he frequently applies it not unhappily; and his arguments, though too frequently desultory and ill arranged, have often point, force and energy. A bluntness of manner, accompanied with a candid openness of heart, strongly mark his speeches; which evidently appear, and are felt by his audience, as the plain, unartificial effusions of an honest mind, deeply impressed

with a full conviction of the truth and justice of its sentiments ; possessing a good natural understanding, it supplies him with matter well worth attention.

Spirited he constantly is, often warm, and sometimes violent ; too elevated to be the tool, and not aiming to be the leader of party, he acts uniformly from the impulse of his inclination : and though ever on good terms with the viceroys, he has frequently stood foremost in the most decided opposition to their measures.

In the debates on Mr. Orde's noted commercial propositions, he took the lead in a distinguished manner, and by his firm, spirited, and manly conduct, justly entitled himself to the gratitude of his country.

SIR MICHAEL CROMIE, BART.

HIS father was a wine merchant, from whom he inherited a decent independency. He was bred to the bar, and early in life became acquainted with Mr. CONOLLY, who brought him into parliament for one of his boroughs.

He speaks but seldom, but when he does speak, it is in a very pleasing manner, and much to the purpose.

He follows the politics of his patron, and is decidedly in favour of the union.

His manners are pleasing, and his private character amiable.

GEORGE PONSONBY*, ESQ.

THIS eloquent speaker, this able lawyer, and accomplished gentleman, ever since he has taken a part in public life, has been influenced by the purest principles of *Whigism*, which, in his boyish days, he imbibed from the house of *Cavendish*, to which he is nearly related.

The Lady Caroline, and Lady Elizabeth, Cavendish, sisters to the late, and aunts to the present, Duke of Devonshire, married two brothers—the *present* Earl of *Bessborough*, and his *next* brother, the Honourable John Ponsonby.

His father, Mr. John Ponsonby, was speaker of the House of Commons during the administration of Lord Townshend; but an address having been voted to that nobleman contrary to the opinion of Mr. Ponsonby, he requested leave of the House to resign the chair, that he might not be under

* See Lord *Bessborough*.

the

the necessity of acting inconsistently, by carrying up, and reading, in his character of speaker, an address, against which he had argued strenuously, and voted in a committee of the whole House.

Although no otherwise advanced in his profession than by possessing a silk gown, he stands in the first rank, without a superior, or, perhaps, an equal, except in the *single* instance of Mr. CURRAN.

The house of Ponsonby has always been at variance with the house of Beresford, and, had not Earl Fitzwilliam's administration been overthrown, he would have made rapid advances to the first post in the law, for which he is every way qualified.

No public character is more popular, or more deservedly so.

He is a great *constitutional* lawyer, and shines alike in the senate and at the bar; and, what is so very rarely the case with lawyers, is not only a distinguished speaker there, but

equal to any man in the House, and surpassed by none. If he has not *all* the *brilliancy* of Curran, he is by no means wanting in wit and vivacity, and has more *solidity*: no *opinion* is so much respected.—He and Mr. CURRAN are always employed in *defending* the subject, in cases of crown prosecutions.

His manner of speaking is decided, concise, clear, and argumentative: he speaks to elucidate and convince.

In private character, he is most estimable and amiable *.

* Mr. John Ponsonby, his father, when he had the patronage of all Ireland, was nicknamed “ JACK PROMISE,” from the facility of his disposition which could refuse no one, and he therefore could not, by possibility, perform *all* his promises.

ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY, ESQ.

MEMBER FOR THE COUNTY OF DONNEGAL.

IN a portrait where the features are prominent and striking, where boldness of manner, in some degree, compensates for want of elegance, and where the ruggedness of the surface, though it betrays neglect, yet strongly indicates the hand of a master ; such a picture is frequently sought after, and not much less esteemed in the cabinets of the curious, than the finished productions of the most laborious artists. The delineation of character may be allowed such an affinity to portrait painting, as to justify this allusion ; especially when we attempt to sketch such a man as Mr. Montgomery, who obviously endeavours to distinguish himself by a stern roughness of manner, utterly abhorrent from every thing that can be thought graceful : and by it he is indeed eminently distinguished.

But with all this roughness of manner, and with loud and pompous pretences to undeviating patriotism, his mind is not formed of that

that stern stuff which never bends to the softening applications of ministerial influence. During Lord Townshend's administration the noted measure of the stamp act was carried through the House of Commons merely by his vote, and that of his then colleague, a man notoriously under his direction.

Fortunately for this gentleman's political consequence, his brother chanced to be slain before the walls of Quebec, in the late unfortunate American war, which circumstance is supposed to have secured him the warm support of a powerful party in the county of Donegal: *his* demerits were forgotten in their enthusiastic admiration of *his brother's* supposed glory, and he was again elected for the county.

His voice is strong, loud, and forcible, but frequently raised to an offensive degree; and his pronunciation has a strong favour of the northern accent. His reasoning is close, strong, and argumentative; abounding in pointed observations, shrewd and severe remarks; never indulging any wanton flights of

of imagination, nor deviating from what he thinks are the decisive points of the question, but pressing them home, and even impetuously.

He generally opposes ministers, and in his opposition he is boisterous and vehement: he is supposed however, like his late friend Mr. Henry Flood, whose principal measures he supported, to have been *occasionally* quieted by means of ministerial opiates.

GORGES LOWTHER, ESQ.

COURT interest obtained by timely absences, or court patronage procured by convenient compliances, but ill accord with the open honesty of the country gentleman, or the generous spirit of the independent representative. Mr. Lowther, who (we believe) is the father of the House of Commons, has for a long series of years represented in parliament one of the first counties in the kingdom; and though by no means the first, or in the first class, in point of property there, has constantly experienced the warm and effectual support of a majority of the electors. It would be injurious to him but to suppose that he has not in every instance repaid their confidence, in the only manner they could expect—by undeviating rectitude and unsuspected fairness of conduct.

To enter into a scrutiny of Mr. Lowther's qualifications as a public speaker would be absurd, as the utmost of his pretensions in that capacity amounts only to uttering, on certain

certain occasions, a few sentences, neither very distinctly audible, nor very clearly expressed; and his voice is much better adapted to the sports of the field, or the riots of a cockpit, than to oratorical exhibitions or displays of eloquence.

In parliament Mr. Lowther has generally voted with those who labour to restrain the exorbitance of power, and to secure the liberty of the people: but sometimes, it may be from a too anxious desire of providing for his county Meath friends, he has adopted a conduct more suited to the complaisance of the courtier, than the determination of the patriot.

SIR BOYLE ROCHE.

THIS gentleman is member for the borough of Old Leighlin.

He is certainly descended of a good family ; and, as he says himself, has more MAC's and O's in his name, than all the O'CALLAGHANS, O'BRALLAGHANS, and O'BRIENS put together.

He speaks often, although under the greatest disadvantages ; for to oratory he has not, and surely cannot imagine himself to have, the most distant pretensions. Of all BROGUE-NEERS, he is the greatest. His language is neither simple, correct, nor pure ; seemingly the spontaneous production of the moment, though conceived with ease, yet delivered with difficulty, in a high degree quaint, and richly ornamented with that flower of rhetoric, called a BULL. His action is vehement and forcible. In reasoning he has occasionally much dry humour ; and is not destitute at times of point or sarcastic allusion.

His

His *matter* is of that obvious and common sort, that occurs *at once* and to every capacity, requiring no depth of thought, nor laboured research to find it, but floats on the surface, ready at hand for the first occupant—sometimes marked by sense, and *sometimes* not ; or to borrow the words of the poet :

His matter now to sense, now nonsense leaning,
Means *not*, but blunders round *about* a meaning.

He supports the ministry in all their measures.

This oratorical baronet has given occasion to many whimsical anecdotes, of which *some* are true. He once quoted *Junius* as an *authority*, with the following prefatory observation :—“ Sir, a certain *anonymous* writer, “ called *Junius*, says, &c.”

Before Lord *Howe*’s victory of the first of June, he remarked at one of the Castle levees, that Lord *Howe* would make the French *bite the dust*.

SIR HERCULES LANGRISHE, BART.

MEMBER FOR THE BOROUGH OF KNOCTOPHER,

IN THE COUNTY OF KILKENNY.

DESERTERS from the standard of opposition, when duly enrolled under the banners of the court, are remarked to possess a promptitude of zeal, and an ardour of exertion superior to those who have early fought its cause, they uniting much of the renegado spirit with the usual alacrity inspired by the reception of rich rewards. Hence speculative theorists deduce a reason why all ministers, in this country, are so anxious to procure the aid of those who have arisen to eminence by combating against them; attaching them to their party, at an expence greater than they are usually wont to lavish on those who have borne in their service the whole burden and heat of the day. Sir Hercules, indeed, has been so long accustomed to support administration, that the flame of his devotion might naturally, by this time, be suspected of suffering some diminution,

tion, for he left tilling the unproductive waste of opposition during the government of Lord Townshend: such a suspicion, however, would do him great injustice, for he still labours in his vocation with all the vehemence of the latest proselyte, and all the eagerness of the newest convert.

His voice is strong, articulate, and loud, overpowering by its force, but not commanding by its energy: and his delivery, neither slow nor precipitate, seems to have been well studied, and is judiciously managed. His language is generally good, clear, masculine, and nervous; not deficient in purity or correctness, but is much injured by a song-like pronunciation, alternately rising and sinking, which, though free from the vulgarity, has one of the most material defects of a provincial accent. His manner, either from the consciousness of the justice of his cause, or the strength of his support, is warm and spirited, bold and fearless, more fitted to intimidate the weak, than conciliate the powerful: and his action, with abundance of strength and force, is but little polished by grace.

In argument, with much imposing plausibility and much apparent freedom of concession, he is acute, artful, and insidious, wielding at pleasure, and managing with skill all the weapons of debate, from the diffuse laxity of rambling observation to the accuracy and closeness of just reasoning. He sometimes also enlivens his arguments with fallies of wit and flashes of fancy ; not, perhaps, of that kind adapted to abide the judgment of the critic, but of that broad and popular species which Cicero recommends to the forensic speaker. One mode of expression he is remarkable for, which is highly reprehensible—the frequent invocation of the name of the Deity.

The matter of his speeches has many claims to regard, for he is a man of considerable information, not ignorant of classical learning, and well instructed in many branches of useful knowledge.

He is a commissioner of the customs.

EDWARD

EDWARD COOKE, ESQ.

THIS gentleman went over to Ireland with Lord CARLISLE, and his rise has been as rapid as was, perhaps, ever known in any country.

Having contrived to render himself useful to successive secretaries, he has picked up *something* * under each of them.

He is now secretary to the treasury, and one of the *overgrown* characters noted by Lord FITZWILLIAM.

He is the author of a pamphlet, describing the proposed terms of the Union, with a view to conciliate the minds of the people to that most unpopular proposition.

* His salary and perquisites as clerk of the House of Commons, make it not less valuable than 800l. per annum.—Mr. Cooke enjoys this, beside his sinecure place of customer of the port of Kingsale, which produces a net salary, for doing nothing, of 350l. There are two or three other small places held by Mr. Cooke.

In the administration of the Duke of Rutland, he wrote a piece called the *CENTINEL*, in the *FREEMAN'S Journal*, under the auspices of the *SHAM SQUIRE*, the proprietor of it*.

* The *SHAM SQUIRE* is a singular instance of what may be done in life by strict attention to *private ends*, without regard to the *means* which so often retard the advancement of men of *principle*.

The *SHAM's* *début* in life little promised his ever attaining his present affluence.

Born in an obscure cellar, of yet more obscure parents, through the successive stations of errand boy, shoe-black, and waiter in a porter-house, in the progress of a few years he grew into an attorney's clerk.

In this situation his talents were not confined to the desk. His master's *pleasures* found an attentive minister in *Sham*, and *Sham* found *additional profits* in his master's *pleasures*; but our hero was never yet justly accused of neglecting his own, through *zeal* for the interests of his friends. When his *double* employment in the attorney's service had enabled him to throw off the *shabbiness* of his dress, with his new appearance he took up new views. As he became a provident man, he began to look out for himself.

Money and connexion he saw necessary; but how to acquire them, except with a wife, he could not so readily see; and the plainness, not to say deformity of his person, could only be equalled by the coarseness of manners: these were disadvantages not easily surmounted; but what will not great application, aided by great dexterity, be able to effect? What other men would have funk

under,

under, only encreased his triumph, by the glory of rising superior to such discouraging circumstances.

Having fixed on the accomplished and lovely daughter of a very respectable citizen in Dublin, he next conceived the idea of making his approaches, through a priest, of the most exemplary character; and, what was yet better for the *Sham's* present scheme, he possessed an unbounded influence over the lady's father: on this occasion he proved the ability of low cunning to dupe the more elevated qualities of capacious understanding, and extensive learning. Enlarged understanding and learning, employed about great objects, generally overlook small matters, which low cunning converts to its own purposes.

To the Priest the *Sham Squire* repaired. To him in *confession* he declared himself the only son of Mr. ——, a gentleman possessed of 3000l. a-year, and the nephew of Counsellor ——, a member of the Irish Parliament; whose presumptive heir, as having no children, he also was. The extremity of his sorrow was truly great for being educated in the Protestant religion, and on his knees he requested to be admitted into the holy church of Rome, without whose pale, he said, there was no salvation. The priest received the returning *lamb*, and poured the healing balm of comfort into the troubled wounds of his *tender conscience*; the penitent, however, requested the holy father to keep his conversion secret, as the consequence of its transpiring might occasion his being disinherited. He then retired; hugging himself in his dexterity, and the fair prospect that began to open to his future success.

When this holy intercourse had continued a few weeks,

the *Sham Squire* told his spiritual guide, that such were the ease and satisfaction of his soul, as induced him humbly to hope the Almighty had accepted the sincerity of his repentance. If any thing was now wanting to his complete happiness, it was an amiable wife of the *true* religion. His expectations were, he said, so ample, that could he meet a lady to his liking, the quantum of her fortune, would be to *him* an object of *little or no* consideration. The daughter of his friend instantly occurred to the priest—for the present, however, he only approved the laudable intention of his penitent, and promised him his advice, and assistance.

In a few days after the priest led his *lamb* to Mr. ——, and, notwithstanding his daughter's evident aversion to him, his pretended prospects and connexions made him the delight of her parents. The lady was over-ruled, and notwithstanding her every effort soon compelled to become the wife of the man, whom of all others she most loathed.

The best-laid plans sometimes meet detection. A few days stripped the veil from our hero's deep-formed plot, and Miss ——'s friends, much to that lady's satisfaction, found means to effect her separation, and to shut up the *SHAM* in gaol.

In prison his *genius* did not forsake him: though far from being a *Macheath* in gallantry or personal attractions, he yet contrived to find his *Lucy Lockit* in the person of the keeper's daughter, whose friends considering the utility of his *kind* of talents to their sphere of life, consented to her union with the *SHAM*.

Often, through the prosecution of Miss ——'s family, was our hero exhibited, drawing a galling length of chain in that court, where he has since strutted in all the proud

importance

importance of under-sheriff---as often was he maintained in his defence against the *old* by his *new* father-in-law.

Mr. Lockit's patronage did not stop here. His interest procured the *Sham* admission to be a solicitor. In this situation his *practice* is too notorious to require particular statement.

His next step to wealth was in the establishment of a hazard table, which like every other inferior hazard table soon attracted a number of *sharps*, *scamps*, and *flashmen*, and they as soon attracted the attention of the *Sham*—ever on the watch to promote his own interest.

The sharp was useful to cheat the unwary of their money, and keep it in circulation at his table. The scamp's plunder on the road, visited the *corner house*, and if taken up by the officers of justice, he seldom failed, for acquaintance-sake, to employ the owner in his capacity of solicitor. The flashman introduced him to the convenient matron, whom he seldom failed to lay under contribution—the price of protecting her in her profession; but as the magistrate might perhaps be troublesome, he perceived a news-paper to be a necessary appendage; nothing frightening an alderman more than a paragraph, or a pointed anecdote.

To attain this very necessary article, he insinuated himself into the acquaintance and confidence of the proprietor of a print, *then* in some degree of estimation. This gentleman was in very embarrassed circumstances.—The *Sham* lent him 50*l.* and watching his opportunity, when he thought his distress at the height, suddenly arrested him for the money. To procure his liberty he was glad to transfer to his creditors the property of the paper, for one-fourth its value.

From his law practice, his gaming-table contributions, and newspaper, the *Sham* now enjoys an income that supports a fine house, in a fashionable quarter of a great city, whence he looks down with contempt on the poverty of many persons, whose shoes he has formerly cleaned.

SIR

SIR LAURENCE PARSONS,

Is lineally descended from Parsons, who was one of the parliamentary lords justices in the time of Charles the First.

When a student in the university of Dublin, so great was the opinion entertained of his talents and integrity, that he was twice elected by that learned body their representative in parliament.

He at present represents the King's County, where he has a large estate.

This gentleman was TELLER, with Mr. Barrington, for the *Anti-Unionists*.

In all public questions Sir Laurence Parsons has uniformly acted with integrity and honour, and has secured the applause of genius, learning, and virtue.

His *voice* is strong, distinct, and deep ; and his *language* simple, flowing, and correct ; his

his *action* is ungraceful, but frequently forcible; his *reasoning* is close, compact, and argumentative, though his *manner* is stiff and awkward; his *matter* is always good, solid, and weighty.

ROBERT UNIACHE, ESQ.

REPRESENTS THE TOWN OF YOUGHALL.

HE has been very active in the suppression of the rebellion, in which his brother, a colonel of the yeomanry, was unfortunately killed.

He favours the UNION.

DR.

DR. PATRICK DUIGNAN.

REPRESENTS THE BOROUGH OF ARMAGH.

THIS civilian has lately in his capacity of an Irish member of parliament, rendered himself so very remarkable, that the following authentic summary of his rise and progress through life, cannot be unacceptable.

The doctor has little to boast on the score of ancestry—he owes his birth to PADDY O'DEWEGENAN, a poor, but honest peasant, who derived a miserable subsistence from herding the cattle of a *pincing* master, on one of the bleakest mountains in the county of Leitrim;

His father PADDY and JOAN his mother were so strictly observant of the injunctions of father THADEE O'MALHERN their priest, that they would not for all the cattle on SLEIVE AN IRAN neglect one confession, or be persuaded (could they even procure it) to eat a morsel of flesh meat on a Friday or Saturday.

Patrick,

Patrick, our present hero, led the first twelve years of his life with his parents, and when able, acted as a barefooted assistant in attending the cattle. The highest ambition of an Irish peasant is, to see one of the family a priest, and with this view old O'D. provided a Spelling-book for young Paddy. Disabled however, by the extremity of his poverty, from giving his son any further assistance, he wisely availed himself of a custom which had long produced many priests, and advised him to ramble about from one hedge-school to another as a *poor scholar* *.

Young O'D. after rambling this way about six years, having scraped together some Latin, resolved to proceed to Munster, there to finish his education; in his way,

* In Ireland it is a custom immemorially established, for those petty school-masters who teach in chapels, or temporary huts, *freely* to instruct such poor boys as come from *remote places*, and are unable to pay. The poor scholar while he remains at the school, goes home night and night about with his school-fellows, whose parents that can afford it occasionally supply him with a few old cloaths, as well as food and lodging. This appears to be a faint emanation of the ancient custom in Ireland, so celebrated by historians, of supplying at the national expence all foreign students with meat, drink, clothes, lodging, books, &c. &c.

he met a gentleman, of whom (saying he was a *poor scholar*) he begged alms. The gentleman, who was a protestant clergyman, and master of a very respectable boarding-school, finding on examination that his petitioner had a tolerable knowledge of Latin, invited him to his house, where he humanely allowed him board, lodging, and instruction *gratis*; his reverend patron did not rest his good offices here, but after having taught him more Latin, and made him acquainted with a little Greek, promoted him to the situation of an under-assistant.

With his elevation, our hero, adopting new views, read his recantation, and changed his real name of *O'Dewegenan*, which he thought favoured too much of popery, to the more protestant appellation of *Duignan*.

Mr. Duignan, as we must now call him, remained at this school, till by the benevolent aid of his master he acquired as much learning as enabled him to gain admission as a *fizer* to Trinity College, Dublin; where, conscious he was fighting *pro unguibus*, his application was so intense, that though unassisted by any extraordinary talents, he obtained

tained a scholarship, and afterwards in due time a fellowship, then the highest point of ambition to which he could aspire.

In the College of Dublin, there are TWENTY-TWO Fellows, of these one must be a lawyer, one a physician, and the remaining twenty, clergymen. The lawyer's place was vacant when Mr. D. obtained his fellowship, and he was consequently entered and maintained at the college expence in one of the Inns of Court, till he was called to the Irish Bar.

The Dr. having no longer the fear of expulsion before his eyes, wrote a rancorous but ill-penned book against the provost and his family. Mrs. HUTCHINSON (since Baroness DONOUGHMORE), the provost's lady, and their daughters, could not, in their sex and numerous virtues, find a shield against his virulence. The crime against these ladies, that provoked his scurrilous invectives, was that of walking in the provost's own garden: this book he called *Lachrymæ Academicæ*.

Among

Among the Irish catholics it is universally observed, that *kiln-dried* * protestants are peculiarly intolerant and hostile to the members of their former communion. Our doctor's letters, published under the signature of **THEOPHILUS**, against the Rev. Mr. O'LEARY, and the whole tenor of his conduct, are strong proofs of the truth of this observation.

The late Right Hon. **HELY HUTCHINSON**, secretary of state, and also provost of the college, was a gentleman of the most polished manners, and greatest amenity of disposition. Dr. DUIGNAN was equally remarkable for the contrary qualities ; he is a man of the rudest manners, and most intolerant principles : an acquaintance, *late in life*, with *gentlemen*, has very seldom been able to remove the boorish clownishness arising from original meanness, and our doctor neither was, nor is, an exception to the observation. Two characters so widely different could not agree, and the *doctor* threw himself into the arms of a party, then in opposition to the provost.

* By *kiln-dried* protestant is meant, one who has read his recantation from the church of Rome, to that of England or Ireland.

His *new* associates were, however, all gentlemen, and shew him so little countenance, that he found it convenient to resign his fellowship for the professorship of civil law*, and an annual salary of 560*l.*

The

* The writer of these lines, when a scholar of the house, and bachelor of arts in Trinity College, Dublin, intending to apply to the study of the law, went, for the sake of instruction, to the civil law lecture-room, in the library. He had formed a resolution of constantly attending these lectures, but did not understand that Dr. D. wished to convert his place into a *finecure*. The dread of academic censure, however, compelled the doctor to attend regularly, though the universal dislike in which he was held, deprived him of auditors. Upon this occasion, one of the porters went up stairs to inform him, a gentleman was in the lecture-room: he found it necessary to come down, and he entered the room with perturbed steps, and flounced into his chair with every symptom of indignation. From the idea the student had formed of his character, he thought he was acting in his *usual* manner, and was not deterred, from this very unpolite behaviour, from taking his seat.

The doctor, angrily, pulled out a lecture from his pocket, some parts of which he hastily flurred over, and so the matter ended for the present..

The next lecture-day the student also attended, when the doctor, out of all patience, threw himself into his chair, with all the irritated passion of a wounded Russian bear, and the following dialogue instantly took place between him and the student:

Doctor:

The point of view most to his advantage, is that of a practising lawyer ; his professional business has, for many years, been considerable, and he holds distinguished rank, being **THE KING'S ADVOCATE.**

Doctor. You see, sir, no one attends here but you.

Student. I do, sir, and am astonished gentlemen should neglect so important a part of education.

Doctor. Is the *Provost* in town ?

Student. I do not know.

Doctor. Not know !—why, I thought he sent you, for the purpose of giving me trouble ; but, if you persist, I am ready to give the lecture.

The student, who had constantly opposed the provost interest, observing, *that gentleman* was as much above such mean revenge as himself was above executing it, took up his cap, and left the doctor to lecture to the bare walls.

M'D. *see p. 6.*

THE HONOURABLE
 WALTER YELVERTON,
 (Son of the Chief Baron).

REPRESENTS THE BOROUGH OF TUAM.

THIS gentleman holds no distinguished rank at the bar: he is said to be a pains-taking man, and may therefore be presumed *not destitute* of professional knowledge. He will hardly ever attain either his father's professional or political eminence, although he adopts his sentiments in public life, by defending the administration, and voting in favour of the Union.

JOHN

JOHN EGAN, ESQ.

MEMBER FOR THE BOROUGH OF TALLAH.

THIS gentleman is the son of a curate, of the town of Charlwell, in the county of Cork, who kept a grammar-school there, at which the present Lord Chief Baron Yelverton received the rudiments of his education.

The present Mr. Egan entered the university of Dublin as a sizer, and, after encountering many pecuniary embarrassments, took his degree of bachelor of arts, and came to London with some Irish gentlemen, as tutor ; and, by the salary received from such considerations, and writing for the newspapers of the day, he managed to support himself during the time of keeping commons at the Temple.

On his return to Ireland, and call to the bar there, he married a widow lady of some fortune.

His first employment, as a barrister, was in electioneering causes, for which line of prac-

tice he was certainly well adapted. Upon these occasions, as well as in parliament, he became truly formidable, from his inclination to *rencontre*, as well in the *war of words*, as in the *war of arms*.

“ *In utrumque paratus*,”—armed for either field,—was a long time his motto, till put down by the fighting and *unerring* BARRINGTON.

He was, at first, *in opposition*, but afterwards went over to administration, with whom he remained till the late agitation of the question of the UNION, of which measure he is an opponent.

In person, he much resembles Mr. FOX*; in manner, he is rough, boisterous, and overbearing.

Lord Chief Baron YELVERTON has been his constant patron, long before and after he was called to the bar. On his elevation to the bench, he gave Mr. EGAN his bag, a common practice at the Irish bar, and very soon after obtained him a silk gown.

* See a description of this gentleman by Mr. Grattan, in their late parliamentary *rencontre*.

JAMES STEWART, ESQ.

THIS gentleman is member for the county of Tyrone.

He is a country gentleman of great property, and still greater worth: we think it the highest praise that can be bestowed upon him, that, when his country resolved to send to the Prince of Wales an address, and make the most respectable characters in Ireland the bearers of it, Mr. Stewart was unanimously named, by the House of Commons, a commissioner for that purpose.

To be thought a fit colleague for a Leinster, a Charlemont, a Connolly, and an O'Neil, was an honour to which the most worthy might aspire, and with which the most ambitious might be satisfied.

Mr. Stewart aims not at the character of a speaker; but, when momentous concerns engage the attention of the House, he expresses his sentiments of their scope and tendency.

His

His voice is strong, clear, and distinct ; his language plain and unadorned, neither glowing with brilliant phrases, nor heightened by picturesque imagery, but pure with ease, nervous with simplicity, *conveying* without illustrating his thoughts ; his *delivery* is slow, measured, and solemn ; his *manner* cold, stiff, formal, and destitute of that agreeable frankness that might be expected from a man of liberal education and polished intercourse, who had spent his youth in the army, and the most fashionable circles.

His *action* has, at times, both strength and expression, but a want of freedom constantly pervades it, and at best we can only say, it is not *ungraceful*.

He has invariably supported those measures that the people have deemed salutary to their welfare, and with decided resolution has vigorously opposed every intrenchment attempted to be made on the legal, or commercial, rights of his fellow-citizens.

RIGHT HONOURABLE.

GEORGE OGLE,

MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF DUBLIN.

THIS gentleman was for many years one of the most popular characters of the kingdom. Despising the allurements of a court, every public measure of acknowledged utility had his decided support, and his spirit was as conspicuous as his resolution was inflexible.

He has lately accepted a place, and has since aided administration with his vote, though seldom with his oratory.

His sources of information are not very copious, but he has a lively imagination, a good understanding, and a fine person: his arguments are more shewy than solid, and have more surface than depth.

His voice is clear, distinct, and well toned, and his action graceful: his language abounds

with figurative diction, while the spirit, and energy of his manner correspond with the warmth of his expressions.

He is always heard with deference and attention, and even pleases when he fails to convince. He is distinguished for all the elegant accomplishments, which form the finished gentleman.

FREDERIC

FREDERIC JOHN FAULKNER, Esq.

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNTY OF DUBLIN.

HE is the only son of Daniel Faulkner, Esq. of Abbott's-town, in the same county, and was educated at the University of Dublin, where he was esteemed a good scholar.

He was bred to the bar, but possessing a good fortune, declined its drudgery, and consequently it's honours and emoluments.

His *entre'* as a public character was under the patronage of the Duke of Leinster, to whom he is nearly related, who introduced him into parliament for the borough of Athy. When his Grace of Leinster held the place of Master of the Rolls, he appointed *him* an examiner of the Court of Chancery, a situation he still retains.

He married the accomplished and beautiful daughter of the late LORD MOUNTJOY, who

who unhappily fell in the late rebellion at the battle of Rofs.

This gentleman opposes the minister, and is violent *against* the Union.

CHARLES

CHARLES O'HARA, ESQ.

MEMBER FOR SLIGO.

Is one of the oldest families in Ireland.

He married a niece of John King, Esq. under-secretary of state to the Duke of Portland.

It has been remarked by a sagacious observer, perhaps with more asperity than truth, that the parliamentary conduct of the gentlemen of the long robe can in general be but little relied on; as their professional habits of attacking or defending causes, not according to the evidence of their truth or falsehood, but according to the determination of a pecuniary bribe, naturally vitiates moral sentiment, and pre-disposes the mind to act in the national council with wanton violence when in opposition, and with unqualified servility when in employment. Without admitting the remark in its utmost latitude, though it seems strongly corroborated by many examples, it must be allowed that

that a moderate conduct, firm, consistent, and dignified, wherein are never heard growlings for office or clamours for hire, is not readily to be met with among the lawyers in the House of Commons. It is therefore highly honourable to Mr. O'Hara, whom a county elected its representative from confidence in his worth, that his parliamentary deportment is conspicuously distinguished by those rare qualities, which, while they evince the propriety of his electors' choice, bear convincing testimony to the goodness of his head and the honesty of his heart.

His voice is ill suited to a popular assembly, being thin and weak, nor is his language calculated to elevate by a rapid flood of glowing terms: it is sometimes plain and perspicuous, and sometimes forcible, justly expressing, but seldom adorning his conceptions: not that the aid of ornament is invariably rejected, or that he inviolably abstains from all figurative diction, but he uses it with obvious timidity, lest it should discolour the usual current of his discourse. His delivery, far from assisting, injures his language, being cold, languid, and nervous;

less ; often drawling, and heavy, it oppresses the ear with a leaden weight.

His manner is cold, distant, and reserved, not adapted to conciliate or frame to impose ; marked by much deference and respect for the House, but at times spirited, and that spirit, from the contrast, the more striking, and his action, which has much ease, is not ungraceful.

In argument he is close, exact, and accurate, never wantoning in needless excursions nor led astray from the question by the meteors of imagination.

His arrangement is clear, regular, and methodical, digested with judgment, and possessing without any scientific parade the merit of scientific order. The matter of his speeches is generally deserving of praise, as solid, and weighty, sought with assiduity, selected with skill, and applied with propriety.

FRANCIS HARDY, ESQ.

MEMBER FOR THE BOROUGH ST. JOHN'S-TOWN.

MR. HARDY is not indebted to nature for many advantages of person, as he is low and fat, but his countenance has, at times, much expression, and his eye is penetrating: his voice is strong, deep, and mellow, and his pronunciation accurately just. His language is smooth, pure, exact, and occasionally animated, warm, and glowing. His action is forcible and expressive, but too impetuous; and his manner is spirited, rapid, and vehement. In reasoning, he is strong, condensed, and accurate, strictly methodical, and logically exact.

He is a good scholar, and possessed of great parliamentary information.

He seldom speaks but upon great occasions; on all such he has not shrunk from the contest, but appeared foremost among the foremost, to resist the usurpations of power,

power, and to refute the sophisms of craft; exerting himself with an energy that fired, and with a strength of argument that could not be refuted.

In many respects he resembles Mr. Fox.

RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR HENRY CAVENDISH, BART.

HE is descended from a branch of the house of Devonshire.

A material difference prevails between popularity with the people, and popularity in the House of Commons. The former is generally acquired by the performance of public services, or the display of a patriotic spirit ; whilst the latter is commonly the consequence of pliancy of temper and facility of disposition. Such amiable weakness is secure of finding admirers, and from what all may in time derive advantage, all are prepared to applaud.—Adherence to preconceived opinions, firmness of character, and that stubbornness of mind, which, though sometimes the attendant of mulish ignorance, is mostly the concomitant of superior genius, totally destroy its power, and expose the individual marked by such qualities to the flippancy of petulant attacks, and to the rudeness of boisterous

terous assaults. Of these Sir Henry Cavendish has felt the force. He was at one time so very obnoxious, that he was hissed in the galleries whenever he rose to speak. Upon an occasion of this sort, he was so irritated that he moved to have the gallery cleared; which was opposed by the late Lord CLONMEL, then Mr. SCOTT, who observed, that if the Right Honourable Gentleman chose to make himself obnoxious, it was hard for the people to resist the impulse of their feelings.—Sir Henry lost his motion, and the galleries remained to hiss.

Sir Henry's voice is not much adapted to exhibitions of eloquence; as altho' perfectly distinct and articulate, it wants clearness, and that variety of tones necessary to affect the mind and rouse the passions. His language is uniformly good, plain, level, simple, and easy; correct, but somewhat impure, as being not completely purged from colloquial phrases and provincial idioms. His manner, without being confident, is determined: in general cool and deliberate, and perhaps languid, it is only occasionally warm and spirited, and that warmth and spirit soon eva-

porate ;—it wants grace to conciliate, and it has not energy to impress.

In reasoning, he is close, argumentative, and acute ; forcibly pressing some strong and leading points of the subject he discusses, without adverting to it's minuter parts: digressing but for a moment, and then returning to the charge with renovated ardour ; yet more sagacious in detecting the errors, and more able in combating the assertions of his opponents, than in guarding his own opinions from the danger of confutation. A vein of dry sarcastic humour often pervades his arguments.

He generally argues and votes with administration.

ARTHUR

ARTHUR BROWNE, LL.D.

THIS gentleman was born in New England, North America, and was entered of Trinity College, Dublin, under Dr. HALES.

He was a good scholar ; of which it is a sufficient proof, that he obtained a scholarship at a very early age, and succeeded Dr. Duignan in the law professorship.

To rise into distinction, unaided by the force of family connections, or the intervention of those fortunate incidents which sometimes exalt the worthless, is ever honourable ; as making the possession of superior abilities, and the due application of them to their proper end—the attainment of personal merit, and the promotion of the public good.

This has been Mr. Brown's lot, who by birth an American, though of Irish extraction, was deprived of the assistance of a powerful relation to countenance his early pro-

grefs, and owed that obligation to the kindness of a reverend worthy divine *, who was attached to him from friendship to his father.

His voice is clear and distinct, but not commanding ; always audible, generally well toned ; his language is choice, correct, and flowing ; his action, though at times marked by professional manner, is becoming, and is both graceful, and elegant ; his manner is spirited, not impetuous ; and the rapidity of his elocution, corresponds with the quickness of his conceptions.

In argument he is acute, strong, and forcible, seeing at once the strong points of the question, seizing them with avidity, and enforcing them with energy, and possessing all the accuracy of logical reasoning, without the pedantic affectation of its use.

From a mind well stored with the richest products of ancient and modern learning, he invariably draws matter apposite, copious,

* The late Rev. Dr. John Forsayeth, Archdeacon of Cork.

and

and weighty, well selected, well arranged, and adapted to compel conviction, forcing its way against the obstinacy of prejudice, and the predetermined of party.

He opposed Mr. Grattan, on the great question of tithes, with very great ability ; and has written several miscellaneous essays, which display correct judgement, and refined taste.

THOMAS BURGH, ESQ.

THE compacts of honour universally understood to prevail between the possessors of boroughs, and those whom they nominate to represent them, however in general injurious to the interests of the state, can seldom, if ever, be violated without a breach of principle, at once despicably mean, and infamously vile.

As patriotism, like charity, covers a multitude of sins, a desertion from the standard of the court to the cause of the people, will naturally be regarded with favour by the majority, and be considered as the emancipation of a free man, rather than as the flight of a slave ; but an apostacy from the people to retain, or earn the wages of servility, can expect little quarter, and hope for less indulgence.

That there is any similarity to so reprehensible a conduct in Mr. Burgh's public life, we are far from venturing to assert ; the spirit of a soldier, which he once was, and the

the character of a gentleman, which he supports with credit, should surely preserve him from all such suspicions.

As a parliamentary speaker his voice is strong, and deep, without much compass or melody, and has an uncommon vulgarity of tone ; his delivery is usually temperate, but occasionally verging on rapidity ; his language is that of colloquial familiarity ; his manner is highly offensive, being arrogant and overbearing, with much of the authoritative bluster of military command ; his manner of reasoning is loose, desultory, and inconclusive, and his arrangement confused ; his speeches are only instructive when he confines himself to certain subjects, for his general knowledge seems extremely limited.

He holds two employments under government, and altho' brought into parliament by his relation the Duke of Leinster, has for many years, been a determined supporter of administration. He is secretary to the lords of the treasury, and represents the borough of Clogher.

LUKE FOX, ESQ.

THIS gentleman represents the borough of Clonminnes, and is in the interest of Lord Ely.—He votes *against* the Union.

He was educated at the grammar school at *Cavan*, at which he afterwards associated as an usher, and was very highly distinguished by his collegiate exercises ; he was enabled to support himself both in the university, and at the Temple, by tuitions of the greatest respectability.

His *law opinions* are held in great esteem, and few are superior to him in acute reasoning, and logical deduction.

ROBERT

ROBERT JEPHSON, ESQ.

MR. JEPHSON very early in life entered into the military line, and was advanced to the rank of captain in the 73d regiment of foot on the Irish establishment, when that regiment was reduced in 1763.

His wit, humour, and conviviality, recommended him to Lord Townshend, who came to the government of Ireland in 1767. His lordship made him master of the horse, and introduced him into the House of Commons.

Those qualities that set the table in a roar, and procure their possessor an unbounded freedom of access, and intimacy of intercourse with the great and elevated, are seldom of such a nature as are adapted to conciliate regard. Flashes of wit, and flights of fancy, are not what all understand, but mimickry of personal defects, and personal peculiarities, are

are equally accordant with the conceptions, and suited taste of the great, vulgar, and the small; they require no exertion of genius, and but little observation of life; and though mostly concealed under the imposing mask of festive pleasantry, give the deepest wounds to sensibility, and are often practised to stab superior merit, and deprecate transcendent worth, being as detestable in their motive, as despicable in their exhibition; in fact, when least liable to censures, they appertain much more to the buffoon than the wit, and are rather fitted to raise the broad laugh of *Plautus*, than the refined wit of *Terence*.

Mr. Jephson is confessedly possessed of extensive powers of convivial entertainment; but as he is a dramatic poet, and an author of reputation, we suppose the same delicacy of sentiment, and justness of taste, which distinguish his productions, effectually prevent in him the slightest tendency to such a character as above alluded to.

As a member of the House of Commons, in
which

which station much was at first expected from him, and but little, indeed, has been performed. His voice is excellent; clear, distinct, sonorous, and harmonious, extensive in compass, various in tones, and in all its gradations, from its highest pitch to its deepest note, melodiously attuned; his management of it is skilful and judicious.

His language is correct, pure, spirited, and nervous, uniting in a just proportion elegance with energy, and politeness of phrase with strength of expression; often graced with the ornament of polished figures, and enlivened with the fire of ardent terms, but still prosaic. His delivery is moderate, and temperate; his manner, with a due degree of confidence, not presuming, it is animated, and rather warms, but always restrained within proper bounds; and his action is easy and graceful.

In his arguments we look in vain for that strength and force, which some of his writings have shewn, for they are weak, feeble, and languid, and while he flutters, and flounders

ders on the margin of his subject, he neither comprehends it extensively, attacks it manfully, nor combats it decisively ; and his observations, however warm in language, are frigid in sentiment, however sparkling in terms, and rapid in conception.

His arrangement is exact and accurate, elaborately formed to assist his reasoning, and give it all the aid of luminous order ; but his matter, from some unaccountable cause, is mean, meagre, and flimsy.

He is a man of reading, and possesses a lively imagination ; but either from indolence or inattention, or a supercilious dependence on his inherent resources, which the event by no means justifies, the *matter* of his speeches is commonly as poor and shallow, as the humblest of those on whom he looks down with contempt.

As he holds both a place and a pension under government, and is brought into the House by the influence of ministry, he is their devoted adherent, prepared for every service,

service, but from the little success of his oratorical efforts, is seldom employed.

As a dramatic writer he stands high, as the author of **BRAGANZA**, **COUNT OF NARBONNE**, **LAW OF LOMBARDY**, &c. &c.

JONAH BARRINGTON, ESQ.

THIS gentleman became celebrated by the resignation of his commission in the Dublin lawyer's cavalry, and his decided opposition in the Irish House of Commons to the projected legislative Union with this country. He is a native of *Queen's County*, where he possesses a considerable estate, and sends two members to the Irish Parliament.

At the time of his opposition he held *two* lucrative employments under government ; he was Clerk of the *Out Entries* at the Custom-house, and *Judge* of the Irish Court of Admiralty, which yielded an income, the former of 1100*l.* per annum, and the latter of 1300*l.* per annum.

Till the Union was proposed, no man was more forward in support of administration ; no debate passed in the Commons in which he did not bear a part, and out of it, as an officer in the lawyer's corps, he repeatedly
risqued

risqued his life in the field against the insurgents.

He does *not* rank high either as a lawyer or a speaker, but has great application, and consequently some business. As a speaker his manner is bold and daring, and to his intrepidity it has been said, he owes his advancement ; it was *he* who put down Mr. EGAN.

He is so good a *marksman*, that he can repeatedly strike out the mark upon the ace of spades, at twelve paces distance ; he has frequently fought, and never *missed his man*. In Ireland it is considered—*not fair to fight him*.

His marriage with the daughter of a Mr. GROGAN, a silk mercer in Dublin, with a large fortune, was his principal step to distinction ; it enabled him to keep up a genteel establishment, and he soon dashed into public notice, with an effrontery that has certainly never been surpassed. He is supposed to have pretty much the same idea of *blushing*, that a *blind* man has of colours.

THOMAS

THOMAS TOWNSEND, ESQ.

MEMBER FOR THE BOROUGH OF BELTURBET.

HE wrote, in defence of Mr. Burke, a pamphlet replete with classical quotations, extravagant ideas, and an affected quaintness of language, and afterwards published Burke's letter of thanks to him upon that occasion; at which Mr. Burke was very justly offended.

He is a scholar and a pedant, and better qualified for the situation of usher to a school, than any other in life. He was tutor to Lord CORRY, son of the Earl of Bellmore, through whose interest he was called to the Irish bar.

He *opposes* the Union.

EDMUND

EDMUND STANLEY, ESQ.

MEMBER FOR THE BOROUGH OF LANESBOROUGH.

A VERY distinguished legal character, who ranks as third serjeant. He is a man of the most laborious industry, by means of which he has introduced himself into considerable practice. He was, at his outset, patronized by the celebrated Counsellor O'Kelly *, who is supposed to have done more business than any barrister of his time, in Ireland. Mr. Stanley first distinguished himself as counsel for the late Lord Robert Fitzgerald.

* Now second judge of the court of common pleas.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM SMITH, ESQ.

REPRESENTS THE BOROUGH OF DONNEGAL,

ANOTHER lawyer, decorated with the silken robe ; he is the son of Baron Smith, of the exchequer.

He is in favour of the Union, and his speech was one of the best delivered upon that side of the question.

W.C.

W. C. PLUNKETT, ESQ.

THIS gentleman was educated at Trinity College, and obtained a scholarship as the reward of classical merit.

After taking a bachelor of law's degree in 1787, he was called to the bar under the auspices of Lord YELVERTON.

He is an acute reasoner, but not an eloquent speaker.

As a lawyer, he enjoys a considerable share of reputation and business; but is more remarkable, in the House of Commons, for a sharp invective, than impressive and manly eloquence.

NOTES.

NOTE (a)

The following is a List of the Voters

FOR THE UNION.

R. Alexander	R. Cotter
H. Alexander	W. A. Crosbie
R. Annesley	St. George Daly
R. Archdall	William Elliot
William Bailey	General Euftace
Rt. Hon. J. Beresford (1)(2)	Lord Charles Fitzgerald
J. Beresford, junior	Maurice Fitzgerald
Marcus Beresford	J.R. Uniack Fitzgerald (1)(3)
J. Bingham	Hon. W. Forward
J. H. Blake (1)	Sir C. Fortescue
W. Blakeney	J. Galbraith
Sir J. Blaquier	St. D. Crady
At. Botet	Richard Hare
James Boyd	F. Hare
Lord Boyle (1)	Hugh Howard
Right Hon. H. D. Browne (1)	Colonel B. Heniker
Stewart Bruce	Peter Holmes
George Burdett	Hon. F. Hutchinson
Thomas Burgh	Hon. G. Hutchinson
Lord Castlereagh (1)	Colonel G. Jackson
Sir H. Cavendish	Denham Jephson
George Cavendish	Hon. John Joselyn
Broderick Chinnery	Robert Johnston
Right Hon. T. Conolly (1)	W. Jones
E. Cooke	Theophilus Jones
C. H. Coote (1)	John Keane
R. Cornwall	James Kearney
Right Hon. Isaac Corry	Henry Kemmis
Sir J. Cotter	Francis Knott

Andrew Knox	T. Packenham
James Knox	Frederick Trench
Sir H. Langrishe (2)	Sir Boyle Roche
Thomas Lindsay, senior	R. Rutledge
Thomas Lindsay, junior	Sir George Shee
M. Longfield	H. Skeffington
John Longfield	William Smith
Captain J. Longfield	Henry M. Sandford
Francis M'Namara	Edmund Stanley
Roiss Mahon	John Staples (1)
Richard Martin	John Stewart
Right Hon. J. M. Mason	John Stratton
H. Dillon Massey	Charles Tottenham
James M'Cleland	Right. Hon. J. Toler
E. A. M'Naghten	J. Townshend
L. Moore	Lord Tyrone (3)
S. Moore	R. Uniake (1)
Right Hon. Lodge Morres	J. O. Vandeleur
Sir P. Mufgrave	James Verner
Thomas Nesbit	Lieutenant-Colonel Wemyss
Sir W. Newcomen (1)	Henry Westenra
W. Odell (1)	Thomas Whaley
C. M. Ormsby	Ben. B. Woodward
Charles Osborne	W. Yelverton.

Tellers—William Smith and James M'Cleland.

Thus (1) marked, County Members.—Marked thus (2), absent on the first day.—Thus marked (3), Tellers the first day.

VOTERS AGAINST THE UNION.

Hon. A. Acheson (1)	Lord Viscount Corry (1)
W. C. Alcock	Lord Clements (1)
M. Archdall (1)	Lord Cole (1)
David Babbington	Hon. Colonel Cole
John Bagwell	George Crookshanks
William Bagwell (1)	Hon. A. Creighton
John Ball	Hon. J. Creighton
Jonah Barrington	Joseph Edward Cooper (1)
J. C. Beresford	Henry Coddington
Arthur Browne	James Cane
William Burton (1)	Lord Caulfield (1)
Robert Crowe	D. B. Daly (1)

Arthur

Arthur Dawson
 Richard Dawson (1)
 Francis Dobbs
 Richard L. Edgeworth
 John Egan
 George Evans
 Sir John Freke
 Frederick J. Falkiner (1)
 Right Hon. J. Fitzgerald
 W. C. Fortescue (1)
 Hon. Thomas Foster
 Arthur French (1)
 William Gore
 Ham. Gorges (1)
 Hans Hamilton (1)
 William Handcock
 Edward Hardman
 Francis Hardy
 Sir Joseph Hoare
 Alexander Hamilton
 Hon. A. C. Hamilton
 Sir Francis Hopkins
 Gilbert King
 Charles King
 Hon. Robert King
 Right Hon. Henry King
 John King (2)
 Lord Viscount Kingsbro' (1)
 Honourable G. Knox
 Francis Knox
 John Latouche (1)
 John Latouche, jun.
 Robert Latouche
 David Latouche, jun.
 C. P. Leslie (1)
 Edward Lee
 Sir Thomas Lighton
 A. Montgomery (1)
 Sir John M'Cartney
 Colonel John Maxwell
 William Thomas Mansell
 Arthur Moore
 Lord Mathew
 John Metge

Richard Neville
 Thomas Newenham
 Charles O'Hara (1)
 Henry Osborne
 Sir Edward O'Brien
 Hon. Wm. O'Callaghan (2)
 Hugh O'Donel
 James M. O'Donel
 Right Hon. G. Ogle
 Right Honourable W. B.
 Ponsonby (1)
 George Ponsonby (3)
 Major W. Ponsonby
 John Preston
 Sir John Parnel (1)
 Richard Power (1)
 Sir Laurence Parsons (1) (3)
 William C. Plunket
 William Ruxton
 Abel Ram (1)
 Gust. Rochfort (1)
 John S. Rochfort
 Sir W. Richardson
 Fr. Saunderson (1)
 W. Smith, Westm. (1)
 James Stewart (1)
 Henry Stewart (2)
 Sir R. St. George
 Hon. B. Stratford
 Hon. Barry St. Leger
 Nathaniel Sneyd
 H. W. J. Skeffington
 Thomas Stannus
 Francis Savage (1) (2)
 William Tighe
 Henry Tighe
 Hon. R. Trench (1)
 John Taylor
 Hon. R. Taylor (2)
 Thomas Townfend
 Charles Vereker
 Owen Wynne
 John Waller (1)
 E. D. Wilson

Tellers—Sir L. Parsons, Bart. and D. B. Daly, Esq.
 Thus (1) marked, County Members.—Marked thus (2),
 were absent the first day.—Thus (3) marked, Tellers,
 the first day.

NOTE (b)

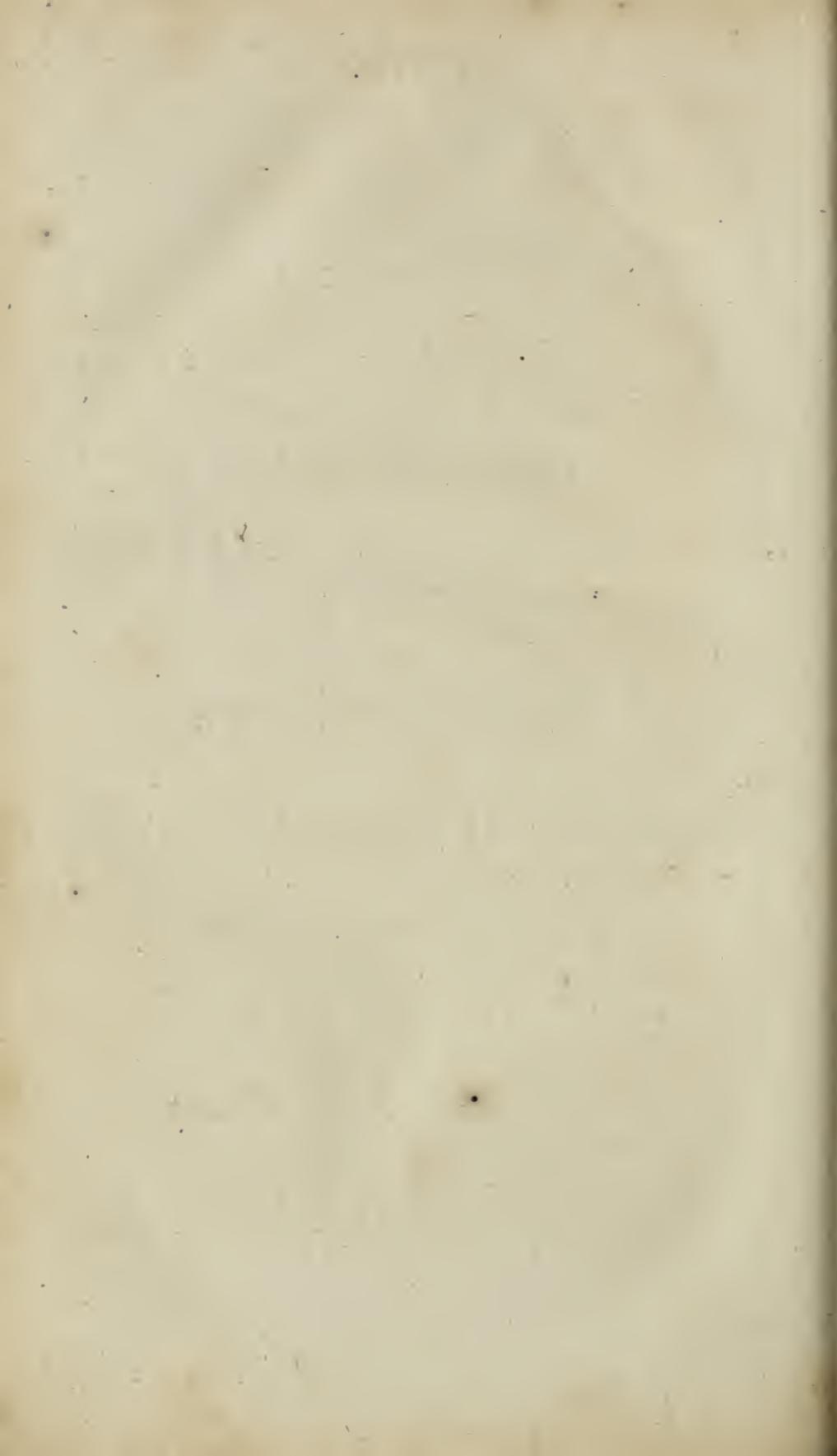
LIST OF PERSONS WHO RESIGNED THEIR PLACES, &c.

Sir John Parnell,	Chancellor of the Exchequer.
Mr. Foster	
Sir H. Langrishe	
Mr. Annisley	Commissioners of the Revenue.
— Coote	
— Wolfe	
— Mafon	
Earl of Shannon	Lords of the Treasury.
— Ely	
Mr. Burgh	
J. C. Beresford,	Taster of Wines.

PART THE THIRD.

DISTINGUISHED CHARACTERS

OUT OF PARLIAMENT.



HENRY GRATTAN, ESQ.

MR. GRATTAN was born in the capital of Dublin in 1751: his father was a barrister, who pushed himself forward in life more by persevering industry and prudent conduct, than by oratory and other shining abilities; —he was recorder of Dublin, worth about 500l. per annum; which city he also represented in parliament.

His mother was sister to the Reverend Dr. Marley, promoted to an Irish deanery in the viceroyalty of Lord Townshend, who was remarkably attached to his company, on account of his wit and humour; he published a work, called, the Bachelor, or Speculations of Geoffry Wagstaff; a work much read at that time.

Mr. Grattan has received a most liberal education. Having performed his school exercises with a degree of reputation astonishing for his years; he was, in 1765, entered a fellow-commoner in the university of Dublin;

lin ; where, although contemporary with the greatest men that now ornament the Irish senate, he carried a premium at every public examination. The examinations in the university of Dublin are not matters of form ; to answer at them requires infinite labour and study : they are performed openly in the face of the world, and their points are the principles of government, sciences, and the belles lettres.—The necessary study to answer for a fellowship in this university is so severe, that there are many instances of gentlemen dying in consequence of intense application.

It was at one time the intention of Mr. Grattan to have read for a fellowship, but, by the persuasion of his friends, he entered himself a student of the Middle Temple, and was called to the Irish bar in 1772, where he was only distinguished by carrying a bag constantly empty.

Mr. Grattan is indebted for his seat in parliament to the following circumstance.—In the early part of his life, he had the good fortune to be a member of an association of gentlemen,

lemen, who assembled weekly at a tavern in Dublin, for the purpose of private debate; among whom, at that time, were Lord CHARLEMONT, and his brother the Honourable Colonel CAULFIELD, the facetious Counsellor DOYLE, Counsellor RICHARD SHERIDAN, Dr. ACHMET, Dr. JEBB, Mr. CALDBECK, &c. &c. Shortly after this institution had taken place, Lord Charlemont's brother was drowned, in his passage from Parkgate, in the same vessel with the celebrated THEOPHILUS CIBBER and others. This accident occasioned a vacancy in the borough of CHARLEMONT, and Mr. Grattan was generously presented with its representation by its noble proprietor.

Instantly on his taking his seat, that spirit of opposition flew from him, that in the course of two years, armed and disciplined eighty thousand men, and in a country oppressed by a foreign legislature, divided by three different religions, inimical to each other, groaning under taxes, and exhausted in wealth.

The consequence was, that England, then
oppofed

opposed by three great powers, and carrying on a civil war in America, after a few convulsions of pride, was obliged to give up the contest by repealing the statute the 6th of George I. which enacted, that the crown of Ireland was inseparably annexed to the crown of Great Britain ; that Ireland was bound by British acts of parliament, if named ; that the House of Lords of Ireland had no jurisdiction in matters of appeal ; and that the dernier resort in all cases of law and equity, was to the Lords of Great Britain.

The services of Mr. Grattan, in bringing about this great event, were so eminent, that the gentlemen of the bar resolved to erect a statue to perpetuate a remembrance of the behaviour of their country, but Mr. Grattan modestly declined the honour. Addresses were presented to him from counties, boroughs, corporate bodies, and the different corps of volunteers. The parliament took his services into consideration, and voted 50,000l. to purchase a house and lands for him and his heirs for ever. In short, the annals of history cannot shew an instance of any

any individual receiving so many, and such distinguished honours from his country.

On the subject of the repeal of the statute of 6 George I. the act by which the British parliament declared its right to bind Ireland by British statutes, Mr. Flood* contended that as that act was only *declaratory* of a right asserted by the British parliament to have been vested in it *prior* to the enacting that statute, the simple repeal of it did not involve a renunciation of the right, and insisted that Great Britain might resume the exercise of it. This opinion was adopted by the people, and met support in both houses of parliament. Mr. Grattan's popularity had been falling for some time. It was certain he had received the money which parliament had

* Mr. FLOOD at this time beheld Mr. Grattan's *blaze of fame* with envy and regret, and wishing to arrest him in his progress, quitted his long-assumed habit of taciturnity and dared his rival to the test of pre-eminence. The rival giants met, and it was indeed painful to behold two great men so far forget the respect they owed themselves, as to exhaust the foul sources of scurrility in their exchange of reproaches, and giving VULGARITY an instance, to which she might with unnatural pride refer.

voted

voted him, and it was insinuated, that for the prompt payment of it, and other conditions, he had engaged with administration to counteract the independence his former exertions had obtained. The truth of such insinuations however may be reasonably suspected.

In 1785, one of Mr. Ord's propositions was: "That the parliament of Ireland, in consideration of being admitted to participate equally with Great Britain in all commercial advantages, should, from time to time, adopt and enact all such acts of the British parliament, as should relate to the regulation or management of her commerce, &c." This, it was contended, would sink the parliament of Ireland into a mere register to the British senate, and Mr. GRATTAN violently opposed them, and his opposition was successful.

From this period we find Mr. Grattan a leader of the country party in the House of Commons.

Among other objects that engaged his attention, was establishing a provision for the clergy

clergy independent of tythes—and a bill to prevent the improvement of barren lands, by exempting reclaimed ground from the payment of tythe for seven years. Both these measures were opposed by the collected influence of the established church, and of course rejected by the legislature.

Mr. Grattan was certainly at the head of the Whig Club. They came to a resolution, by which they pledged themselves not to accept offices under any administration, which should not concede certain measures to the people, consisting of—a pension bill—a bill to make the great officers of the crown responsible for their measures—a bill to prevent revenue officers voting at elections—a place-bill:—a pension bill—and a responsibility bill, were at last yielded by the court.

Mr. Grattan and his constituents differed on the claim of the catholics to the elective franchise. The determination with which administration rejected the petitions of the catholics—their opposition to reform—the increase of court influence, by the increase of

sinecure places—the lavish profusion of titles—and the trick played upon Lord Fitzwilliam, by sending him with concessions which were revoked when the supplies were granted ;—all these circumstances diffused universal discontent. The society of United Irishmen, associated under the pretext of reform, derived new vigour from these discontents, and their principles were embraced by a great portion of the population of the country : Mr. Grattan advised measures which would have placed every moderate and good man on the side of the throne. These efforts were unfortunately unsuccessful : instead of conciliating, administration adopted measures of severity and coercion, and at length military law and free quarters: upon which Mr. Grattan seceded, and declined accepting a seat in the legislature.

No man, perhaps, was ever raised to such an astonishing height of popularity as Mr. GRATTAN. Perhaps the unblemished character of his acknowledged patron was not a little instrumental towards uplifting him in the opinion of the idolatrous multitude, inasmuch as a part of the highly venerable properties of the

the good old peer, was collaterally reflected upon himself; and the public gave him credit for a participation of those laudable opinions, which were *known* so purely to exist in the bosom of his illustrious protector.

As a public speaker, Mr. Grattan's voice is thin, sharp, and far from powerful; not devoid of a variety of tones, but these neither rich nor mellow; and though not harsh, its want of an harmonious modulation is often striking. Unequal to impassioned energy, it is shrill when it should be commanding, and in its lower notes is sometimes scarcely audible, from its hollowness of sound. His management of it is but ill adapted to remedy its natural defects or to supply its deficiencies, as he allows it to spariate at large unrestrained by any curb from rule; now raising it to an elevation that it cannot bear, and then sinking it to a depth where its distant murmurs can be barely guessed at.

His language is lofty, magnificent, copious, and peculiarly his own. Not tricked out with the gaudy dress of poetic phrases, nor fatiguing the attention with pompous terms,

high-sounding and unmeaning ; but familiarly combining strength with beauty, conciseness with ornament, and sublimity with elegance. Adapted to the exigence of the occasion, it is now a wide-spreading conflagration, and anon, a consecrated fire : now abundant and splendid, then brief and pointed ; equally fitted to instruct, delight, and agitate ; to soothe the soul to peace, or to awaken and arouse all its exalted and elevated energies.

His delivery admirably accords with the style of his oratory ; never languid, insipid, or cold, but always possessing a pleasing warmth, expressive of feeling and imparting spirit : whilst his pronunciation, generally correct, though frequently rapid, is never crowded or redundant, but distinct and articulate, leaving ample space for strength and propriety of emphasis. In his manner, life, animation and ardour predominate, and that to such a degree that they fascinate the prejudiced, and invigorate the torpid.

To the praise of grace his action has few pretensions ; always forcible, and often expressive, it is seldom elegant : with much of that vehemence

vehemence which all must condemn, it has little of that delicacy which the judicious can admire, and when it offends not, is hardly pleasing. With comprehensive intelligence embracing a great object, not catching at its parts by retail, he takes in the whole at one glance, and sees instantly the pivot whereon it turns with almost intuitive acuteness. In argument he is strong, pointed, close, and conclusive, never deviating from his subject, never straying in search of extraneous matter, but explaining with success what he understands with facility. He conducts not the mind to the conclusion he aims at by a long chain of abstruse disquisition, but guides it with seeming ease through the pleasing path of natural illustration. Every man thinks he could reason like him, but when attempted, it is found to be the bow of Ulysses. In the refutation of his opponents, he puts forth all his might, and accumulates his force to overwhelm and oppress them; but his superior greatness is most apparent when he enforces what cannot be denied; when he defends the rights of a nation; when he pourtrays the hopes, the fears, the expectations of a magnanimous people; when he threatens the vicious and

appals the proud ; when he pronounces the panegyric of departed excellence ;—then indeed he is magnificent, sublime, and pathetic,

In invective, a species of elocution, in our opinion, ill suited to the purposes of public deliberation, he has endeavoured to excel, and, we think, very unsuccessfully ; as his weapons, though sufficiently sharp, were totally destitute of polish ; and the composition of his famed phillipic had much more of the broad and coarse ribaldry of the bar, than of the pointed, elegant, and witty raillery of the senate ; whilst his reproaches had a sting that refused to be healed, which Cicero must have told him the orator should avoid.

His fund of knowledge is great, and his diligence of acquisition still greater ; hence the matter of his speeches is ever of the first impression. Early in life distinguished as one of the best scholars in the university of Dublin, which had the honour of his education, no time since has been lost to increase his first acquirements, and to add to classic and scientific lore a competent skill in the law, a profound acquaintance with the constitution, and a mastery

a mastery of polite literature. Thus to every subject of discussion he comes perfectly prepared, familiar with what it requires, and instantly bringing it forth as the contingency demands; instructing the youthful, and delighting the aged, with the mature fruits of a capacious mind, rich in its native produce, and richer from careful cultivation.

JOHN PHILPOT CURRAN, ESQ.

MR. CURRAN was born in the county of Kerry, of parents in very straightened circumstances ; they contrived, however, to give him the rudiments of a liberal education. He was a *usher* in the College of Dublin, where he obtained a scholarship.

His college career is not marked by any peculiar circumstances, but he is known to have made some progress in wading through that laborious course, which is prescribed for fellowship candidates, and to have at length given it up in disgust, for the little less laborious pursuits of the bar.

He soon after married a lady of his own country, without fortune, and came to the inns of court in London, to prepare himself for the Irish bar.

He

He supported himself during this period by his literary labours, and some slender assistance from his friend, and patron, now Lord Yelverton.

When he first came to the bar in Ireland, he is known to have been extremely poor, and to have remained a long time unnoticed, and unknown. The attention of the public was first attracted to him from the following circumstance.

He had been engaged as agent by one of the candidates at a contested election, and in the course of the poll, it became necessary for him to make objections to a vote proffered by the adverse party, which he did in that strong and sarcastic manner, for which he is so remarkable. His antagonist, a man of rude and overbearing manners, *felt* the pungency of his wit ; and not immediately recognising the barrister under a shabby coat, and a mean appearance (for nature has not been very favourable in external decorations), he applied

plied to him some very gross epithets, with more spirit, perhaps, than decorum. Mr. CURRAN leaped from his seat, seized him by the collar, and was prevented only by the interposition of the by-standers from chaf-tising him on the spot. He, however, was not precluded from asserting his independence in that way, which could alone be tolerated in the presence of a magistrate, he therefore, in a few pithy sentences, disclosed his *mind*, and his *character*; his antagonist had generosity enough to acknowledge his error, and apologized to Mr. CURRAN for the consequences of his mistake; nay, instead of resenting the violence with which he had repelled the insult, he granted him his friendship, and by his recommendation and patronage, very ef-fentially promoted his future interests.

From that period he began to rise rapidly, and in a few years took his seat in the House of Commons, where he seconded every effort of the popular party for the emancipation of the country, and the establishment of its com-mercial freedom, and political independence. In his parliamentary conduct he has been always attached to the popular cause. He at first

first represented a borough of Mr. Longfield's*,

He

* The political connection, however, between Mr. Longfield and Mr. Curran has totally ceased. The former gentleman it seems, on the arrival of the Marquis of Buckingham, made a tender to his excellency of his parliamentary interest. What the terms proposed were, or whether there were any terms at all proposed, we know not. But the result proved, that the tender was accepted. Mr. Longfield took this step, and made this voluntary surrender, without any consultation whatever, or even communication with Mr. Curran. Mr. Curran's seat in the house, was the property of Mr. Longfield. With that spirit for which he is remarkable, he immediately waited on Mr. Longfield, and told him, that since he had thought proper to proceed in the manner he had done, and make a resignation of his parliamentary interest, their political connexion must be at an end, for he would scorn to come in as the subordinate supporter of any administration, much less one of which he had no experience, and whose intended measures were kept a profound secret. However, to compensate Mr. Longfield for any loss he might sustain from his defection, during the continuance of the parliament, he had purchased a seat in it for the borough of Doneraile, and Mr. Longfield was at liberty to return any person he might think proper for it.

The conduct of Mr. Curran in the above transaction, was highly patriotic and meritorious. It evinced that he had a proper sense of, and regard for, his own importance.

Scorning

He has uniformly declared against the war with *France*, and has strongly combated the coercive system which has been pursued in Ireland. Finding the inefficacy of this opposition, he has seceded from the House of Commons, and is now only known to the public as an advocate, in which capacity he has defended many of his unfortunate countrymen, and is said to be about retiring even from that situation, as well as from his native country, for ever; in which respect he resembles Mr. ERSKINE, who is known to entertain the highest opinion of the government of North America, with strong wishes to spend the remainder of his days there.

As a lawyer, and an advocate also, he may be compared with Erskine, and, perhaps, without the possibility of assigning to either a fair preference. They are each the greatest in their respective countries.

Scorning to become the obsequious servant of administration, and to be restrained in the freedom of his actions, he returned a compensation for any personal loss that might accrue from having dissolved a connexion that could no longer be held with credit or honour.

In

In the examination of a witness, comparisons have been made between Mr. Curran and Mr. GARROW; but in this respect, as well as in all other respects, Mr. Curran is infinitely Mr. Garrow's superior: he much more nearly resembles the late celebrated Mr. DUNNING.

His parliamentary speeches yield greatly to his forensic exertions, being frequently irregular and desultory, but, as an advocate, never, perhaps, was eloquence more perfect.

In the attorney-generalship of Fitzgibbon, he came into frequent collision with that imperious lawyer, who was, nevertheless, often vanquished by the ridicule of Mr. Curran's wit; and if he could not always boast of victory, was never disgraced by defeat. Of one of these contests the issue was a duel, in which Mr. Curran was the challenger, but which was luckily harmless.

He is little indebted to nature for his person; his figure being rather mean, and even his countenance not expressive.

His voice is clear, distinct, and well tuned, but his pronunciation is disgraced by a provinciality of accent; his action, though not graceful, is forcible and expressive, and his language is correct, copious, elegant, and nervous; it is a rich and exhaustless stream of animated diction, abounding in luminous phrases, poetical allusions, and the most lively turns of fancy; his imagination has a fertility, a compass, an extent, perhaps unequalled by any known orator; he captivates the fancy, and touches every spring of passion; he has equal power to elicit tears from the softness of sensibility, or extort from gravity itself, the roar of laughter.

He abounds in wit, flashing with reiterated strokes, and almost with the rapidity of elemental fire; its coruscations gild the gloom of debate.

His arguments are strong and convincing, rising gradually, and with apparent facility one from the other, and terminating in the most cogent and powerful, while his reasoning preserves the most exact, logical precision.

His mind being amply stored with a variety of useful, and entertaining knowledge, his matter is always drawn from an abundant source, and is always happily selected *. In irony he is pre-eminently successful, being shrewd, sarcastic, and severe; and in satire he stands unrivalled: it is a caustic that causes the most stupid to feel, and the most insensible to wince; it appals the effrontery of impudence, and scares the audacity of public prostitution; nor rank, nor station, can shield themselves from its force, and when seemly contemned, it has been known to have operated with its greatest force.

Mr. CURRAN has uniformly supported those measures, which the public voice has declared conducive to the national prosperity. — His exertions in the debates upon the noted TWENTY POPOSITIONS, of odious memory, and upon the doctrine of ATTACHMENTS, gained him great and merited honour.

* It is a curious circumstance, that to study the Latin classics, and commit to memory remarkable passages, formed a part of Mr. CURRAN's preparation for the bar, and that he continues, from experience of its utility, to recommend this practice to the law student.

LEONARD MAC NALLY, ESQ.

WAS born in Dublin ; his father and grandfather were merchants, and he is descended from a very respectable Irish family, who suffered much by forfeitures, under English acts of parliament, in consequence of the various revolutions of property. His grandfather made a very considerable personal property, which he laid out in building at Dublin, and having taken leases liable to a discovery of his property, he was stripped of it in consequence of a bill under the popish laws, his father dying when he was an infant, at which time the bill of discovery was settled. — Very little attention was paid to his education ; he may, indeed, be said to be a self-educated man, having never been at any public school or seminary, and having received but very trifling assistance from private tuition.

He came to London in 1773, and in 1774 was entered a student of the Middle-temple.

While

While in London, his chief pecuniary resources arose from writing for the book-sellers: he was editor of several magazines, and also several years of the PUBLIC LEDGER:

The productions of his pen are extremely numerous *.

In 1776 he was called to the Irish bar, where he argued several questions with reputation, particularly that whether a bailiff had a right to break the door of a lodger, after a legal entry at the outward door; he argued against the right being in the bailiff, and obtained a judgment for his client, *contrary to that given here in the case of General Gansel.*

Mr. MCNALLY finding the expence of living as a barrister in Dublin exceeded his finances, returned to London, but had little practice in the courts. His *editorial* avocations taking him too much from his professional pursuits; he was once advised by Lord Loughborough, then Chief Justice of the

* See catalogue of LIVING AUTHORS.

Common Pleas, during a trial at Guildhall, in which he had not properly prepared himself, to abandon the muses, and apply to the law.

A few years since he again returned to Dublin, where he has now very considerable law business, and in crown cases more than any other lawyer at the Irish bar *.

* He was the author of *Retaliation*, and produced a temporary opera in Ireland, called “*The Ruling Passion*,” which had very considerable success.

He is also the author of several pamphlets which have been praised by the public, without being acknowledged by the author.

“*Sentimental Excursions to Windsor*,” established his success in a style of writing in which many have failed; and his letter to Dunning on the case of the King against Bate, for a libel on the Duke of Richmond, procured him the character at the inns of court of being an ingenious and subtle reasoner.

He published a pamphlet entitled “*The Claims of Ireland vindicated on the Principles of Mr. Locke*.”

CHARLES FRANCIS SHERIDAN, ESQ.

IT has been a frequent observation, and numberless instances prove the *truth* of it, “ that men of great learning and study are “ seldom orators ; ” they are embarrassed by the very redundancy of their matter, and confounded by the choice of elegancies, equally pressing for selection. Conscious of their knowledge and attainments, they may advance to the combat fearless of consequences, but wishing to give their harangues the polish of their laboured compositions, and the remarks of profound observation, they are balancing forcible terms, and estimating cogent reasons, when the exigency of the moment requires an instant and copious supply ; hence, embarrassment arises, and with the ingenuous shame follows confusion, so that they either desert the field, or each future exertion is, from the remembrance of past miscarriage, rendered doubly difficult.

Mr. Sheridan, who has acquired the cha-

racter of an elegant historian, by his judicious account of the revolution in Sweden, at the commencement of the present king's reign, where he then was in a public capacity, is an honourable exception to this remark, for whenever he addressed the House of Commons (where he was many years a member), he never failed adding another laurel to his fame.

His voice is strong, manly, and sonorous; his language strong, nervous, and expressive, conveying his sentiments with force, and marking them distinctly, while his epithets, though but sparingly used, paint its object clearly; it is correct without affectation, and pure without simplicity, resembling

“ No fairy field of fiction all on flow'r;”

but is the vigorous emanation of a mind possessed both of spirit and science: his mode of speaking is rapid.

In his manner, ardour and earnestness prevail, which render it strikingly pleasing; in argument he is strong, subtle, and acute; investigating with precision, what he has studied
with

with diligence ; diving to the bottom of his subject, not merely skimming it's surface; he answers objections with ability, but avoids all asperity of recrimination.

He was secretary at war in 1789.

REV. MR. KIRWAN.

MR. KIRWAN is a native of Ireland, and possesses a small fortune in it.

He resided some years in London without being much distinguished for talents, unless *Lunardi's* advertisements and aerial accounts entitled him to literary reputation.

He was bred a *catholic*, but conformed to the established church, and assumed on his conversion a character to which he was by no means thought equal to *before*. There never was in that or any other country, in this or any other age, a man who possessed greater popularity, or whose sermons were more attended to by persons of the highest rank and character.

He is said to *merit* the animated and beautiful character, given of him in parliament by Mr. Grattan—and to *excel* it, is not the lot of humanity *.

* See Mr. Grattan's speech in the Irish House of Commons, about the latter end of the year 1791.

ARTHUR

ARTHUR O'LEARY

Is a native of Cork.

He resided several years at the college of St. Omer's, where he studied for the situation he was destined—that of a Roman catholic priest.

He built a small chapel in his native city, where he eminently distinguished himself as a preacher ; but what brought him so prominently into public notice, was his pamphlet, intitled, “A Defence of the Divinity of Christ, and the Immortality of the Soul,” in answer to a work, called “Thoughts on Nature and Religion.”

He has very happily blended politics with religion ; and has, by his writings, at the same time, served *her* cause, and *the cause of his country*.

When the parliament of Ireland framed a *test* oath for the Roman-catholics, many of them scrupled taking it ; upon this occasion,

he published "Loyalty asserted, or the Test Oath vindicated :" with which the catholics were so well satisfied, that they immediately, and almost unanimously, subscribed.

During the most awful period of the American war, he addressed his catholic countrymen, upon the subject of what ought to be their political conduct, in a manner that merited the thanks of every good citizen, and for which, it has been said, government rewarded him with a pension ; if so, never was a pension more deservedly applied.

In 1786, he published "A Review of some interesting Periods in the Irish History ;" and has lately printed a sermon on "The present Situation of Public Affairs,"

An ingenious modern writer thus speaks of him :

" He connects the wisdom of the world
" with the innocence of pastoral, and even of
" primitive, manners ; his life, in all its
" changes, from the monk in his cell to the
" man of the world, from the social friend to
" the

“ the solitary recluse, has been unspotted;
“ his devotion glows without papistic rage,
“ and is earnest without catholic prejudice.

“ He is the blameless PRIEST, who is
“ known to have long considered himself as
“ an advocate, pleading for the protestants in
“ France, and for the Jew in Lisbon, as well
“ as for the catholic in Ireland.

“ He is the PATRIOT, whose loyalty is
“ found, whose love of liberty is a steady
“ light, rather than a transient blaze, the
“ vital principle of an honest mind, conscious
“ of its rights, not the ravings of a factious
“ spirit.

“ As a PHILANTHROPIST, he clothes
“ humanity in the robes of eloquence, em-
“ ploying his voice and pen in exhorting
“ mankind to lay aside all religious distinc-
“ tions, since it is equal to the Israelite re-
“ leased from bondage, whether his temple
“ was built by Solomon, or Cyrus, provided
“ he has liberty to pray unmolested, and
“ sleep under his own vine.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM OGILVIE, ESQ.

THIS gentleman was a private tutor in the Leinster family, and afterwards married the Duchess Dowager of Leinster. He was brought into parliament by Mr. Conolly, for his borough of Ballyshannon.

The best pamphlet published in 1785, on the twenty propositions, was his, and universally well spoken of.

As a speaker, he has a clear, articulate voice, but his pronunciation retains much of the Scotch accent ; his language is strong, nervous, and correct ; his action is not destitute of grace ; and his manner is warm and animated, intrepid not daring, fearless not confident. In reasoning, he is close, pointed, and acute, strongly argumentative, and even scholastically exact ; and he well knows and practises the arts of debate, pressing forcibly what is strong, and dexterously glossing over what is weak, while his arrangement is most carefully methodical.

Although

Although deficient in liveliness of fancy and vigour of imagination; he is shrewd in his observations, and sarcastic in remarks, which have a *poignancy* that is felt, and a sting that wounds: they have exposed him to some unpleasant retorts, that had better been avoided.

In the debates on Mr. Orde's commercial propositions, he eminently distinguished himself.

This was the character of his oratory when in parliament: he has now no seat in the House, and is said to be *unfavourable* to the Union.

ARTHUR O'CONNOR.

THIS gentleman was born in the county of Cork, and chiefly resided in the city of Cork ; respectably allied and educated ; he is the nephew of Lord Longueville, late Colonel Longfield who is very wealthy, and violent in favour of all the measures of government.

Mr. O'Connor was bred a clergyman, but soon abandoned the ecclesiastic gown for the *forensic* robe ; in neither of which professions was he however much distinguished, having an independent property of his own to supersede the necessity of that drudgery, which is so essential to the attainment of professional fame.

He was brought into parliament by his uncle, to whom (having no issue) he is presumptive heir,

Early in 1795, he made a violent speech against government, to the equal surprise of his uncle and the whole House, and in consequence of which he lost his uncle's countenance

tenance and favour, which has been followed by a political career, ruinous to himself, and distressing to his friends, of whom he has many in both countries.

Very soon after this, he came over to England, and, from the reputation acquired by the speech above alluded to, was introduced to the members of opposition in the English House.

His late trial at Maidstone, the character given of him by some of the first people in this country, and what has since followed, is in universal recollection.

COUNSELLOR EMMETT.

THE present Counsellor Emmett is the son of Dr. Emmett, an eminent physician in Dublin, and brother of the late Temple "EMMETT," who made so very distinguished a figure at the bar, INSTANTLY on his starting in the profession, very early in life, and who died of the gaol fever he caught upon the circuit, about eight or nine years since.

He was bred to physic, which he studied at Edinburgh, but relinquished the profession of medicine for that of the law, in which he is little less eminent than his late celebrated brother.

He spent some time in Paris, where he is supposed to have imbibed those political opinions that induced him, on his return to Ireland, to join the society of United Irishmen, to the destruction of his fame and fortune.

HAMILTON ROWAN

Is descended from a good family in the north of Ireland, and inherited a good fortune, acquired by his ancestor in trade.

He was sent out of his own country to England, for the purpose of finishing his education, to divest his mind of all local principles, and make him a citizen of the world.

He was of CAMBRIDGE, where he enjoyed the highest reputation, and was universally beloved.

He was first particularly noticed in Ireland, about the beginning of the year 1787, from the following circumstance : An unfortunate girl, of poor but honest parents, had been debauched (by the means of an infamous woman of the name of LEWELLIN, who kept a house of ill fame in Dublin), and then left destitute in the streets. To screen the delinquents, her father and mother were thrown into prison, on a false charge

charge of felony. The woman was convicted, but pardoned. The person who falsely swore the felony against the innocent parents, confessed having been SUBORNED by one Edgewood, a bully in the house of Lewellen, who was tried, convicted, and pillored. Mr. Hamilton Rowan, with that humanity for which he was so much distinguished, protected the unfortunate girl from vice and famine, and relieved her unhappy and innocent parents from prison, and afterwards published their case in the newspapers.

This was the most honourable notoriety; he received, in consequence, the freedom of the city of Dublin, and addresses of thanks from the several corporations in the city, and other county corporations, as the protector of injured innocence*.

* A young clergyman, of the name of Paisley, alluded to the above related circumstances in one of his sermons, and was, in consequence, suspended by the then archbishop of Dublin. The mother of HAMILTON ROWAN provided for him, by allowing him 50*l.* per annum, the value of the curacy of which he had been deprived.

It was the great misfortune of his life to get acquainted with Napper Tandy, by whom he was seduced into those politics, which have ruined and disgraced him.

He became one of the United Irishmen.

The rest and its consequences are known.

This unfortunate gentleman started in life with every possible advantage,—a good understanding, a finished education, an independent fortune, and a fine person ; in manners, no man is more engaging ; in accomplishments, natural and acquired, few men more gifted ; and in amiability of temper and disposition, not surpassed by any one.

JAMES CHATTERTON, ESQ.

SECOND SERJEANT.

THIS gentleman is the son of a brewer, in Cork ; he was bred an attorney, and made a considerable sum of money by his practice, with which he came to London, and kept his terms in the Temple, and was, in due time, called to the Irish bar.

He was patronized by the present chief justice of the common pleas, which, with his provincial connections, have introduced him into considerable practice.

His politics may be inferred from his patron ; he is a strenuous advocate for the Union.

P. BURROWES, ESQ.

THIS gentleman has been some years a king's counsel, the reward of his distinguished merit at the bar.

When at college, he was alike remarkable for the possession of great genius and application.

At the time he was keeping his commons at the Temple, he was very punctual in his attendances upon the debating societies, where he was a constant, and always a very superior speaker. GARROW was often his opponent, but Mr. Burrowes was infinitely his superior, both in eloquence and information.

JAMES WHITSTONE, ESQ.

ALSO a king's counsel, he rose to reputation and practice in the profession by special pleading, to which few lawyers direct their attention to Ireland.

He is a bold and manly speaker, and a good lawyer, but it seems values himself most on his accomplishments as a gentleman; these accomplishments, however, are certainly not above mediocrity, and his best claims to distinction are his professional talents.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM CALBECK, ESQ.

THIS gentleman distinguished himself by being the first who established powder-mills in Ireland, and by commanding the artillery corps of the liberty volunteers, when the Irish people armed to assert their independence.

He is an able lawyer, a good advocate, and possessed of much wit and humour.

NAPPER TANDY.

THIS man who has been so much the general topic of conversation, is one of the younger branches of a very respectable family; he started in trade, and with a fortune of about 200*l.* per annum, but soon quitted the regular course of trade, for the uncertain trade of politics.

He first distinguished himself when the rage of volunteering broke out in Ireland, and being a man of dauntless effrontery and some talents, with much volubility of speech, he made a very conspicuous figure.

Having given up his business, his income principally arose from AGENCIES, such as collecting rents, of which he had many, and those very respectable.

He was a member of the Guild of Merchants in Dublin, whom he represented in the common council, where he was the leading man upon all constitutional questions, and

and acquired such an ascendancy that he could carry any question he chose. He opposed the election of alderman JAMES, and in that opposition most *unprecedentedly* succeeded. The matter was referred to the privy council, who sent them to a new election, and he succeeded a *second* time.

He was now in the *zenith* of his popularity, which, however, became soon after on the decline, from the following cause.

He had the temerity to challenge the present Attorney-general, Mr. Toler, for some expressions used by him in the House of Commons. Mr. Toler acquiesced in meeting him, but Mr. Tandy in a *planet-struck* moment declined it, alleging as a reason “that his life was of too much value “to be *so* risqued, at such a moment.” His popularity began to wither from this moment.

A complaint was made against him to the House, by Mr. CUFF, for calling a member

to account for words spoken in the House, and an order was in consequence issued to arrest him, but the *cautious* NAPPER kept out of the way, and after the session the business died of course.

As belonging to a volunteer corps, he was tried by a court martial for cowardice, and acquitted; but *such* was the apparent partiality of the sentence upon the face of it, that the wound could not be healed without leaving visible the scar of dishonour.

Early in 1793, Mr. Tandy was prosecuted for distributing seditious handbills at DUNDALK, and as he was going into town in the morning to take his trial, was met by his attorney, who told him that some evidence had come out that had not been foreseen, which would affect his life, upon which he turned back, and made the best of his way out of the kingdom.

He very soon after sailed for America, and was not afterwards publicly heard of till he appeared lately off the coast of Ireland.

With

With respect to his *public* character, he was vehement, hot, and eager after every object of his pursuit; his style was rapid, strong, and pointed, but his language was coarse, inelegant, and often incorrect, in which the defect of early education was visible, as well as in the entire want of classical allusion and arrangement.

In his private character, he was very hospitable and friendly.

JOHN

JOHN WOLFE, ESQ.

THE county of Kildare had the honour of selecting Mr. Wolfe to represent them; whose amiable manners, masculine understanding, and unspotted integrity, united all affections in his favour, and secured the support of the most decisive interest.

He is a relation of Lord Kilwarden, and holds a place as a commissioner of the customs.

He has a strong and clear voice, his delivery is distinct, and his language forcible and manly; unsupported by any pomp of phrase, or splendour of diction, it pleases by its energy and spirit:—his manner is warm, and at times vehement.

SIR

SIR FREDERICK FLOOD.

HE for many years co-operated in parliament with his illustrious kinsman, and when he joined administration, the baronet was appointed a commissioner of the stamp-office, and since that period has generally supported the minister.

His voice is very strong, and his elocution has a kind of flow, measured dignity, ill adapted to a senator. His language is plain, easy, and simple; neither elevated or figurative, nor aiming at any flight of sublimity, but flowing even, it conveys his thoughts with sufficient clearness. His action has the common fault of most lawyers—that of being strongly tinctured with the ungraceful manner of the bar.—He in many respects resembles Michael Angelo Taylor, of the English House.

In argument he is diffuse, comprehensive, and full; and is not without art and acuteness

ness in the management of a debate:—he knows where to advance with daring determination, and where to recede with cautious prudence.

His arrangement is strictly methodical, and the matter of his harangues is deep, weighty and solid, laboriously sought for, and carefully selected*.

* WARDEN FLOOD, Esq.—That share of reputation which is derived from a connection with an exalted character is seldom lasting, as depending on circumstances liable to variation in every passing hour; it is more liable to exposure from the strict examination of talents, far from splendid, and which having *for a time* shone from the irradiation of another's beams, is left in darkness whenever that luminary withdraws itself.

Mr. WARDEN FLOOD, from the outset of his parliamentary career, attached himself to the *illustrious* Flood his kinsman, and while HE sailed proudly down the tide of popularity, WARDEN as an *attendant skiff*

“Pursued the triumph, and partook the gale.”

Having been some years since appointed to an office under government, he afterwards confined himself to the two simple monosyllables “Aye” and “No,” which were at the service of the minister, and this place is now held by Mr. BARRINGTON.

As a *politician* he was of no great consideration, and of much less as a *speaker*. He was bred to the law, in which profession

profession he obtained some degree of rank and consequence.

Through the interest of the late Duke of CHANDOS, the late celebrated HENRY FLOOD procured a seat in the parliament of England. When this occurrence was known, it was supposed that he had been introduced into the British senate for the secret purpose of opposing the thunder of Fox; but whatever was the design, the consequences were very inauspicious to the greatness of his own character and the expectation of the public. His *coup d'essai* was fraught with some ludicrous embarrassments. His probationary theme was Mr. Fox's India bill, which he entered the English House of Commons to annul at the unseasonable hour of three in the morning, after the fatigues of a long journey, upon a subject too that had been exhausted by PITT, FOX, BURKE, SHERIDAN, and DUNDAS.

When Mr. FLOOD stood up to speak a general silence prevailed, every one was big with expectation, but the issue did not justify the accompanying respect, Mr. FLOOD seemed more inclined to offer an exordium to the serious matter in debate, than to elucidate that matter by any novel matter of his own. To be brief, Mr. COURTNEY pointed his ridicule so forcibly against the HIBERNIAN DEMOSTHENES, that never was defeat more perfect, certainly never more mortifyingly conspicuous.—See Gratian, p. 235.

WILLIAM TODD JONES, ESQ.

WAS bred to the profession of the law, though he does not practise it, and has a large fund of constitutional and historical knowledge.

His voice is clear and articulate, and his language free and copious, sometimes elevated and spirited.

His manner is animated, marked by the ardour of truth, and the impassioned earnestness of conviction. His action, consonant to his manner, has animation and fire; with more strength than grace, and more force than elegance. In argument he is close and condensed.

SIR EDWARD NEWNHAM

WAS long a distinguished patriot.

In his parliamentary capacity he had but few claims to attention, of which he seemed so conscious, that he seldom troubled the House with his sentiments on any question, and then only for a very short space of time.

His delivery was slow and embarrassed, and his language was very incorrect ; his *manner* was intrepid, and accorded with the *vehemence* of the sentiments he usually uttered, which had more violence than strength, and boldness than force ; his *matter* was far from being despicable, as he certainly possessed a considerable portion of information upon many subjects.

A decided opposition to the servants of the crown was the prominent feature of his character*.

* Sir Edward voted against the court during the vice-royalty of Lord TOWNSHEND, and was turned out of his place

place—the collectorship of the port of Dublin—which he had purchased for a very considerable sum, and must, in consequence, with a large family, have experienced all the inconveniences of distress, had not his aunt, an old lady, named *O'Callaghan*, immediately settled a genteel competence upon him. This old lady died long since, and left him a fortune of 4,000*l.* per annum.

RICHARD

RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN, ESQ.

Is descended of a family eminent for genius and learning.

He is the son of THOMAS SHERIDAN, esq. once manager of the Dublin theatre, by Frances his wife, a lady who wrote several dramatic pieces, and the grandson of Dr. THOMAS SHERIDAN, the celebrated friend of Swift.—The present Mr. Sheridan was born at Quilca, near Dublin, in the year 1753, and was brought to England at a very early age, and placed at Harrow school, under the care of Dr. Sumner. *Here* we have never heard of any dawning of that genius which has since astonished the world. He was only upon a level with other boys: it is remembered, however, that when left to himself, he would prefer recreation to study; but when study was required, he pursued it till he had made himself master of the subject before him. Several little effusions of his muse are handed about, as very early productions; but what he was principally distinguished for,

was, public declamation, in which he took the lead.

It does not appear that he was ever a member of any university.—He chose the law for his profession, and entered himself of the Middle Temple, with a view of being called to the bar; but he very shortly abandoned the thorny paths of law, for the more captivating pursuits of poetry, and the *belles lettres*.

At the age of eighteen, he joined a friend in translating *Aristænetus*, from the Greek; and certainly printed several works, known only in the circle of his friends.

Mr. Sheridan's father, previous to this period, introduced him at Bath, with a view to his assisting him in his READINGS, where the following story is told of him: the father, knowing his son's excellence at declamation, had caused his name to be inserted in the advertisements of his own readings.—The youth, mortified at this supposed degradation of education and character, went to the printer, and menaced him with chastife-

chastisement, if he should ever again make free with his name ; and the printer, remembering the wholesome advice of the old adage, “ *In propria pelle quiesce,*” omitted it ; and there are many who to this circumstance impute the subsequent misunderstanding between him and his father. This little anecdote, at least, serves to prove Mr. Sheridan’s spirit, and the opinion *he* entertained of *himself.*

Here he became acquainted with the amiable and accomplished lady he afterwards married. Wit and beauty, in the person of a youthful female, are not to be gained without contending with competitors and rivals ; and Mr. Sheridan fought a duel with a Mr. Matthews, in consequence of his pretensions to the lady.—It is unnecessary to give the particulars ; but it is remembered to have been conducted in a manner which wonderfully displayed the courage, not to say the ferocity of the combatants.

His pursuits, from the period of the schoolboy to manhood, are only known in **GENERAL**s. When he came to London, he

resolved (probably without having any power of choice) to become the carver of his own fortune.

“ The world was all before him where to choose.”

That world he entered, poor in Fortune’s favour, but rich in all Nature’s endowments. There seems to have subsisted a jealousy between them, as if Nature, in opposition to Fortune, had given him being, to shew how inadequate were her smiles alone to constitute real greatness. From what other sources than his own genius he derived his support, is unknown—perhaps he had no other.

The theoretic muse is the coyest of the choir, but Sheridan can seldom pay his addresses in vain. He produced the comedy of the *RIVALS*, which, if it had not the success it merited, certainly brought him a considerable sum of money. It will not, perhaps, be thought impertinent, to state the circumstance that gave rise to this comedy. Sheridan had been captivated with Miss Lynley, who had, at the same time, captivated the affections of another gentleman, and which produced the catastrophe we have related.—Sheridan, who, *in love*, “ COULD

BEAR NO RIVAL NEAR THE THRONE," made it the subject of his muse.—He married the lady in question, in April, 1773.

Soon after the *Duenna* appeared, and was honoured with a degree of approbation, which even exceeded what had formerly been bestowed on the Beggar's Opera.—About this period, Mr. Garrick began to think of quitting the stage, and Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Lynley, and Dr. Ford, entered into a treaty with him, which, in 1777, was finally completed, and the new managers invested with the powers of the patent.

The *School for Scandal*, and the *Critic*, as they were his last pieces, so are they his happiest and greatest; for they will ever preserve their supremacy at our theatres. They can derive no honour from additional praise, and are equally out of the reach of injury from critical censure.

At the late general election, Mr. Sheridan was returned member for the borough of Stafford, and has since devoted his time to political enquiries, that have had a fatal effect

on his dramatic exertions, and, it is feared, he can no longer be considered as a follower of the muses.

In the diversified expansion of beauty, the mind feels, as it were, pleasingly bewildered, unknowing on what *particular* object to fix. Distinctive ideas are lost in universality.— The person, whose arduous task it is to take a view of the character of Mr. Sheridan, is justified in this observation; for, whether considered as an orator, an author, a statesman, a man of fashion and of the world, or as a companion of the convivial hour, we find him equal in *each*, and excellent in *all*.

As an author, he has distinguished himself by an early maturity, which has enabled him to outstep every veteran competitor in the same race. His comedies abound in wit, humour, satire, situation, and pleasantry. But all this is very inadequate to satisfy the feelings of Mr. Sheridan, whose object is *another theatre*, and the drama is considered scarce worthy a secondary consideration. Let us follow him to his favourite scene, and contemplate the SENATOR!

He

He is second only to Fox: he is acute, penetrating, quick of apprehension, and an able financier; and the country stands largely indebted to him, for exposing the sophistry and weakness of an *inflated* administration.

Mr. Sheridan certainly possesses a very rare combination of talents, and the essential accomplishments of the orator in an eminent degree. A temperate and a winning elocution, sustained by classic elegance, adorned with dramatic and poetic images and allusions pointed with irony, and rising occasionally into the boldest animation, conspire to render him a very conspicuous leader of parliamentary debate.

His speeches have been numerous, and in all instances successful. His replies have been peculiarly happy, but the great business that announced him in splendour to the world, and which will transmit his name to posterity, was that of the prosecution against the late Governor Hastings, in which his claim to fame is irresistible. The elegant writer of the preface to *Bellendenus* thus describes

his powers on that memorable occasion ; and it is impossible to speak after him upon the same subject but in worse words.

“ With what energy of voice and spirit did he attach the attention of his hearers of all ranks, ages, and parties ! In how wonderful a manner did he communicate delight, and incline the most reluctant spirits to his purpose !”

To the discussion of this cause he came admirably prepared ; all was anxious expectation and attention. That subject, so various, so complicated and abstruse, he comprehended with precision, and explained with systematic acuteness. He placed every argument in that particular point, where it had the greatest energy and effect. Throughout a very long speech, he was careful to use no imprudent expression, but was manifestly and uniformly consistent with himself ; his style was dexterously adapted to the contingency of the occasion : in one part, he was copious and splendid ; in another, more concise and pointed, and gave an additional polish to truth. As he found it necessary, he instructed, delighted,

lighted, or agitated his hearers. He appeared to have no other object in view but that of giving the fairest termination to the business, to prove the guilt of the accused by the most indisputable evidence, and to confirm the object of the investigation by strong and decisive reasoning. Then first did that SCOTT (audacious as he is) tremble with alarm, and altogether forget his usual loquacity. But the minister rendered Mr. Sheridan the tribute of his suffrage; either because he felt the irresistible impression of his eloquence, or chose to embrace this as the fairest opportunity of atoning for his former reproachful conduct to him.

At that time Sheridan discovered a spirit of wit and humour, not mean and vulgar, but consistent with the purest eloquence. His oratory was often rapid and diffused, but, in no instance, crowded or redundant; it was, as contingency required, vehement, indignant, and expressive of the justest sorrow. It's impression, it's splendour, it's copiousness and variety, were, in all respects, responsible to the greatness and dignity of the occasion.

With

With how great applause he was heard by an attentive senate, is universally known. His most determined adversaries were compelled to render tribute to his excellence. A large portion was added, not merely to his ingenuous and honourable popularity, but to his solid and unfading glory. Posterity will, again and again, with renewed wonder, peruse that composition ; and, with heartfelt animation, often apply to him the words of Æschines :

“ Oh that we had heard him !”

Excellent in the powers of imagination—excellent in the powers of eloquence—he is equally so in arithmetical calculation.

Mr. Sheridan has, in the British House of Commons, exerted his great talents AGAINST a legislative Union.

His speech upon that occasion, although the majority were not induced to support it, was luminous, argumentative, and impressive. He might say with HECTOR, that, could the walls of Troy be saved,—

“ *Etiam hac lingua fuissent.*”

NOTES.

N O T E S.

N O T E (a).

*The following are the greatest Estates of Residents in
IRELAND.*

	£.
Mr. Conolly,	25,000 per ann.
Earl of Ormond,	22,000
Duke of Leinster,	20,000
Lord Darnley,	16,000
Lord Bechtive,	16,000
Lord Dillon,	20,000
Lord Caledon,	12,000
Lord Cremorn,	8,000
Lord Shannon,	16,000
Lord Altamont,	16,000
Lord Kingston,	18,000
Lord Clanwilliam,	14,000
Lord Tyrone,	8,000
Lord Belmore,	12,000
Mr. Rowley (his Representative),	12,000
Mr. R. Stewart,	12,000
Sir R. Deane,	9,000
Lord Bandon,	18,000
Mr. Brownlow,	9,000
Lord Longueville,	14,000
Lord Tyrawley,	8,000
Lord Clonbrock,	10,000
Mr. Browne, of castle M'Garrett,	11,000
James Daley, of Dunsandel,	16,000
Right Hon. Mr. Cooper,	10,000
Lord Bantry,	9,000
Mr. French,	10,000
Sir Laurence Parsons,	9,000

Colonel

			£.
Colonel Brewen,	-	-	12,000 per ann.
Earl Clonmell,	-	-	20,000
Lord Cloncurry,	-	-	12,000
Lord O'Neil,	-	-	14,000
Lord Mountjoy,	-	-	14,000

NOTE (b).

MR. ERSKINE's opinion upon the case of attachments, in a letter to a Gentleman of the bar in Dublin.

[This note, having been, by mistake, omitted in page 111, is inserted here upon the idea, that the omission of so curious and interesting an article, although it has been before published, would be injurious to the work, and a disappointment to the reader.]

SIR,

Bath, Jan. 13, 1785.

I FEEL myself very much honoured by your application to me on an occasion so important to the public freedom; and I only lament that neither my age nor my experience are such as to give my opinion any authority with the court in which you practise; but wherever I have no doubts, I am always ready to say what I think; and you are, therefore, very welcome to my most public sentiments, if any use can be made of them.

You have very properly confined your questions to the particular case furnished by the affidavit which you have transmitted to me; and my answers therefore need involve in them no general discussions upon the principles of civil government, which in the mere abstract are not often useful nor always intelligible. The propositions to which my answers are meant strictly to apply, are—

First, Whether the facts charged by the affidavit, on which your court of King's-bench is proceeding against the magistrates of Leitrim, are sufficient to warrant any criminal prosecution for any misdemeanor whatsoever.

Secondly, Whether, supposing them sufficient to warrant a prosecution by information or indictment, the court has any jurisdiction to proceed by attachment.

As you are pushed in point of time, I can venture to answer

answer both these questions at Bath, without the assistance of my books ; because they would throw no light upon the first from its singularity, and the last is much too clear to require any from them.

As to the first, the facts charged by the affidavit do *of themselves* neither establish nor exclude guilt in the defendants : in one state of society, such proceedings might be highly criminal ; and, in another, truly virtuous and legal.

To create a national delegation amongst a free people, already governed by representation, can never be, under all circumstances, a crime : the objects of such delegation, and the purposes of those who seek to effect it, can alone determine the quality of the act, and the guilt or innocence of the actors.

If it points (no matter upon what necessity) to supersede or to controul the existing governments, it is self-evident, that it cannot be tolerated by its laws. It may be a glorious revolution, but it is rebellion against the government which it changes.

If, on the other hand, it extends no further than to speak with certainty the united voice of the nation to its representatives, without any derogation of their legislative authority and discretion ; it is a legal proceeding, which ought not, indeed, to be lightly entertained, but which many national conjunctures may render wise and necessary.

The attorney-general might, undoubtedly, convert the facts contained in the affidavit into a legal charge of a high misdemeanor ; which, when *properly* put into the form of an information, the defendants could not demur to : but he could not accomplish this without putting upon the record averments of their criminal purposes and intentions : the truth of which averments are facts which he must establish at the trial, or fail in his prosecution. It is the province of the jury, who are the best judges of the state of the nation, and the most deeply interested in the preservation of its tranquillity, to say, by their verdict, whether the defendants acted from principles of public spirit, and for the support of good government, or sought seditiously to disturb it. The one or the other of these objects would be collected at the trial, from the conduct of the defendants in summoning the meeting, and the purposes of it when met.

If the jury saw reason from the evidence to think that its

its objects, however coloured by expressions the most guarded and legal, were in effect, and intended to be, subversive of government and order, or calculated to stir up discontent, without adequate objects to vindicate the active attention of the public ; they would be bound in conscience and in law to convict them.

But if, on the other hand, their conduct appeared to be vindicated by public danger or necessity, directed to legal objects of reformation, and animated by a laudable zeal for the honour and prosperity of the nation ; then *no departure from accustomed forms in the manner of assembling, nor any incorrect expressions in the description of their object*, would bind or even justify the jury to convict them as libellers of the government, or disturbers of its peace.

To constitute a legal charge of either of these offences, the crown (as I before observed) must aver the criminal intention, which is the essence of every crime ; and these averments must be either proved at the trial, or if to be inferred, *prima facia*, from the facts themselves, may be rebutted by evidence of the defendants' innocent purposes. If the criminal intent charged by the information be not established to the satisfaction of the jury, the information which charges it, is not true ; and they are bound to say so by a verdict of acquittal.

I am, therefore, of opinion (in answer to the first question), that the defendants are liable to be prosecuted by information ; but that the success of such prosecution ought to depend upon the opinion which the people of Ireland, forming a jury, shall entertain of their intention in summoning the meeting, and the real *bonâ fide* objects of the assembly when met.

It is unnecessary to enlarge upon these principles, because their notoriety has no doubt suggested this novel attempt to proceed by attachment where they have no place ; and I cannot help remarking, that the prosecutor (if his prosecution be founded in policy or justice) has acted with great indiscretion, by shewing that he is afraid to trust the people with that decision upon it which belongs to them by the constitution ; and which they are more likely to give with impartial justice, than the judges whom he desires to decide upon it, at the expence of their oaths and of the law.

This is a strong expression, which, perhaps, I should not have used in answering the same case in the ordinary course

course of business ; but writing to you as a gentleman, I have no scruple in saying, that the judges of the court of King's-bench cannot entertain a jurisdiction by attachment over the matter contained in the affidavit which you have sent me, without such a gross usurpation and abuse of power, as would make me think it my duty, were I a member of the Irish Parliament, to call them to account for it by impeachment.

The rights of the superior courts to proceed by attachment, and the limitations imposed upon that right, are established upon principles too plain to be misunderstood.

Every court must have power to enforce its own process, and to vindicate contempts of its authority ; otherwise the laws would be despised ; and this obvious necessity at once produces and limits the process of attachment.

Wherever any act is done by a court which the subject is bound to obey ; obedience may be enforced, and disobedience punished by that summary proceeding. Upon this principle attachments issue against officers for contempts in not obeying the process of courts directed to them as the ministerial servants of the law, and the parties on whom such process is served, may, in like manner, be attached for disobedience.

Many other cases might be put, in which it is a legal proceeding, since every act which tends directly to frustrate the mandates of a court of justice, is a contempt of its authority. But I may venture to lay down this distinct and absolute limitation of such process, viz. That it can only issue in cases where the court which issues it, has awarded some process ; given some judgment ; made some legal order ; or done some act, which the party against whom it issues, or others on whom it is binding, have either neglected to obey ; contumaciously refused to submit to ; excited others to defeat by artifice or force, or treated with terms of contumely and disrespect.

But no crime, however enormous ; even open treason and rebellion, which carry with them a contempt of all law, and the authority of all courts ; can possibly be considered as a contempt of any particular court, so as to be punishable by attachment ; unless the act, which is the object of that punishment, be in direct violation or obstruction of something previously done by the court which

which issues it, and which the party attached was bound by some antecedent proceeding of it, to make the rule of his conduct. A constructive extension of contempt beyond the limits of this plain principle would evidently involve every misdemeanor, and deprive the subject of the trial by jury in all cases where the punishment does not extend to touch his life.

The peculiar excellence of the English government consists in the right of being judged by the country in every criminal case, and not by fixed magistrates, appointed by the crown. In the higher order of crimes the people alone can accuse, and without their leave distinctly expressed by an indictment found before them, no man can be capitally arraigned; and in all the lesser misdemeanors, which either the crown or individuals borrowing its authority may prosecute, the safety of individuals and the public freedom, absolutely depend upon the well known immemorial right of every defendant, to throw himself upon his country for deliverance by the general plea of not guilty. By that plea, which in no such case can be demurred to by the crown, or questioned by its judges; the whole charge comes before the jury on the general issue, who have a jurisdiction co-extensive with the accusation, the exercise of which, in every instance, the authority of the court can neither limit, supersede, controul, or punish.

Whenever this ceases to be the law of England, the English constitution is at an end, and its period in Ireland is arrived already if the court of King's-bench can convert every crime by construction into a contempt of its authority, in order to punish by attachment.

By this proceeding the party offended is the judge; creates the offence without any previous promulgation; avoids the doubtful and tedious ceremony of proof by forcing the defendant to accuse himself, and inflicts an arbitrary punishment, which if not submitted to and reverenced by the nation as law, is to be the parent of new contempts, to be punished like the former.

As I live in England, I leave it to the parliament and people of Ireland to consider what is their duty, if such authority is assumed and exercised by their judges: if it ever happens in this country, I shall give my opinion.

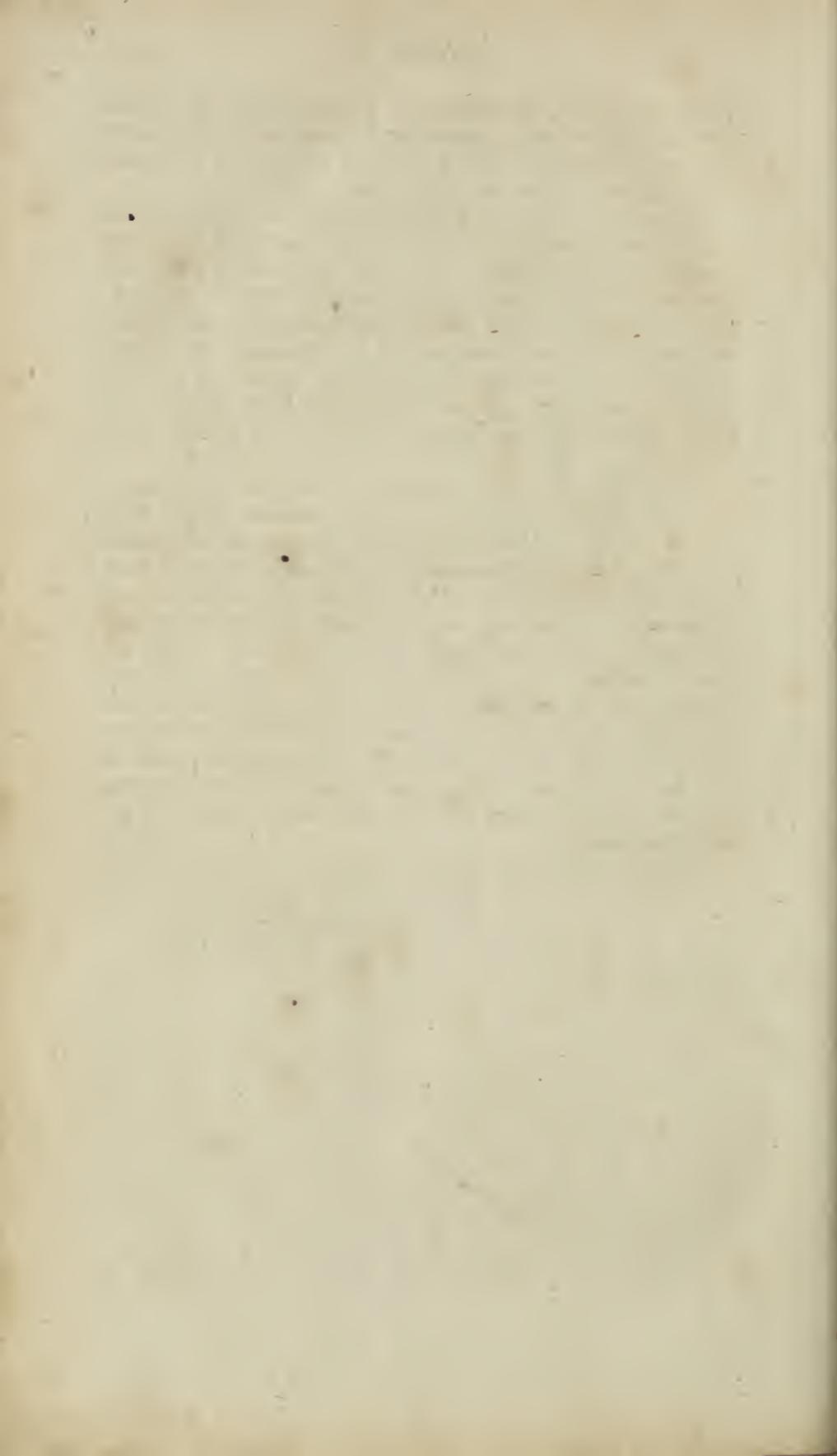
It is sufficient for me to have given you my judgment as a lawyer upon both your questions, yet as topics of policy

policy can never be misplaced when magistrates are to exercise a discretionary authority, I cannot help concluding with an observation, which both the crown and its courts would do well to attend to upon every occasion.

The great objects of criminal justice are reformation, and example ; but neither of them are to be produced by punishments which the laws will not warrant : on the contrary, they convert the offender into a patriot, and that crime which would have been abhorred for its malignity, and the contagion of which would have been extinguished by a legal prosecution, unites an injured nation under the banners of the criminal, to protect the great rights of the community, which in his person have been endangered.

These, Sir, are my sentiments, and you may make what use of them you please. I am a zealous friend to a reform of the representation of the people in the parliaments of both kingdoms, and a sincere admirer of that spirit and perseverance which in these days, when every important consideration is swallowed up in luxury and corruption, has so eminently distinguished the people of your country. The interests of both nations are in my opinion the same, and I sincerely hope that neither ill-timed severity on the part of government, nor precipitate measures on the part of the people of Ireland, may disturb that harmony between the remaining parts of the empire, which ought to be held more sacred, from a reflection on what has been lost.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
your most obedient
and humble servant,
T. ERSKINE.



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